

crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Spring 2012

Art feeds the need

A Joplin charity
gives inspiration
to young minds



Plus...

Academic updates

Features

Lion sports

And more!

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Class of 2010 alumni Meg Bourne, Marissa Fahrig and Brooke Hines of Art Feeds stand in front of their Mobile Art Center, Van Gogh. Cover illustration & photo by Amber Heiskell, '12



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

crossroads magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

crossroads magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

crossroads is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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Greetings MSSU Alumni!

Another school year has come and gone. It's bittersweet in our office at this time of year. We have met the freshmen during their University Experience class. We visit with them throughout their years on campus. Then, we greet them at the end of the stage at commencement with their MSSU lapel pin and welcome them into the largest family they will ever know ... the MSSU Alumni Association.



Over the last 75 years, we have graduated nearly 30,000 students. We have alumni throughout the states and all over the world, and we love hearing from them and sharing their stories. As we complete the work on the 75th anniversary edition of the alumni directory, we are reconnecting with alumni with whom we have lost touch. You are contacting us with updated information on your lives and sharing your successes. Please continue to keep in touch and share that important information.

As Homecoming 2012 approaches, we will be celebrating 75 years of Lion pride. Please mark your calendars to join us for this special weekend celebration on October 5 and 6. If you can't be here with us, please, send us your stories, photos and remembrances to share.

And remember, you are always welcome home at Southern and the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center.

In Lion Pride,

Lee Eliff Pound, '86
 Alumni Director

Special
 Collections
 MSSU

Greetings, alumni and friends!

We hope you enjoy this spring issue of **crossroads**. It's been a fun experience working with a talented group of students, many of whom graduated this May. We said goodbye to Amber, Joanna, Michelle and Jeremy, as they earned their diplomas. Their expertise and creativity will be missed.

And that's what life is like working with students on a publication. Unlike a business, the progression of the education process generates our turnover. Most of our staff members are juniors and seniors, so they are here for maybe one to three semesters. While it's a challenge to retrain each semester's staff, I find it rewarding to see these students launch out to their new careers.

Our fall issue will focus on 75 years of education — from Joplin Junior College to Missouri Southern State University. Those years have seen many students study, learn and find a new path in life. And, in 75 years, **crossroads** has seen its fair share of staff members work on the former yearbook, student magazine and now alumni magazine.

If you are a former **crossroads** member (yearbook or magazine), drop us a line about your time at Southern. We'd love to add you into the fall issue. You can send comments to clark-rhonda@mssu.edu.

Warm regards,

Rhonda Clark '00

Rhonda Clark, '00,
crossroads Editor,
Assistant Professor, Communication



crossroads

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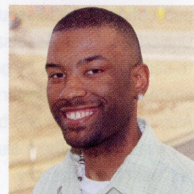
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Development welcomes new members

Please help us in welcoming three new members to the development division team.

Kevin Greim joined us in April as the new major gifts officer. He has worked at Missouri Southern since 1999 and previously served as associate athletic director for external relations at the university.

In this role, he managed the marketing, sales, and radio activities for the athletics department, was the Voice of the Lions, and supervised baseball and golf.

During his time in athletics, he conceptualized SouthernFest, a two-day fundraising event for athletics, and served as co-chair for the steering committee. He also worked with the department's annual fund campaign and was the primary point of contact for the charity basketball games with the University of Missouri and Missouri State University, including securing sponsors.

Greim earned his master's at Delta State University and his bachelor's at Southwest Missouri State University. He fills the vacancy left when I changed jobs.

Cassie Mathes, '00, joined us in late April as our new director of university relations and marketing. She replaces Rod Surber, who accepted a new role as director of Web content at Southern.

A graduate of Missouri Southern, Mathes worked at Pittsburg State University from 2006-12. Most recently, she was manager of Web content and social media. She also served as assistant director of media relations and communications specialist. Prior to her time at PSU, she was an assignment editor at KODE-TV, a technical writer at Pitsco, and a reporter for the Joplin Globe.

Mathes has a master's in communications from Missouri State University and a bachelor's in communications from Missouri Southern.

In May, Elizabeth "Liz" Ebert, '93, joined the team as our new business manager and is responsible for managing the finances of the Missouri Southern Foundation as well as the development department accounts.

Ebert has extensive experience in accounting, including 12 years with Leggett & Platt serving in positions such as division controller, senior accountant and branch reporting accountant. Recently, she was controller and office manager for E.S. Kluft & Company in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Ebert holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Missouri Southern. She replaces Cecilia Hempen, who left for another opportunity.

We're excited about the addition of these team members, and we hope you have the opportunity to meet them soon.

— JoAnn Graffam, '87, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation

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Opportunities abound for students

College not only offers students with the opportunity to learn but also a place to get involved. Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration student organizations



provide many benefits: meet new people and establish new friendships, acquire leadership roles as club officers, take part in real-world experiences related to future careers, network with area

employers, participate in competitions, and travel, to name a few.

Active participation in a college organization shows a willingness to be involved in extracurricular activities, which can and should be highlighted on a student's resume. When potential employers see that involvement, they see a person who is not afraid to take initiative — a person willing to do more.

SOBA has many opportunities for students.

Jill Smith, '82, assistant professor of accounting and Accounting Club adviser, said the focus of the club is to help our students find jobs.

This club averages 120 members each year. At monthly meetings, guest speakers describe careers in private, public, and nonprofit accounting, and related fields such as computer consulting. The local Institute of Management Accountants chapter gives information about its professional organization. Other professionals have spoken on topics such as tips on the job search and starting a new career or focused on nontraditional student opportunities, service learning, community service and graduate school.

The Accounting Club is available to distance learners, as videos of all the meetings are made available on the club's Blackboard site. Distance learners can attend club events and receive updates on scholarships and internship and job opportunities. They also earn professional-development points for classes by viewing club meetings and summarizing them. They vote for club officers online. In short, they do most of the activities that on-ground students do.

"The Accounting Club has been the most beneficial thing I have done to help me while in college and in pursuing a career after college," said Jennifer Lee, 2012-13 president. "I have not just met people but really gotten to know my

fellow students, professors and many potential employers. These people will not only benefit me here at school but will be friends for a lifetime."

The main focus of the Finance and Investment Club is to inform students about career opportunities and topics in finance, including banking, investments, corporate finance and public/nonprofit finance.

"We accomplish this by hosting professional speakers at meetings and taking informational trips," said Dr. Brian Nichols, '93, assistant professor of finance and club adviser. "The last two fall semesters, members have attended the Kansas City Financial Planning Association Career Day, and every spring, the club travels to a financial center to learn about financial markets and meet with industry professionals."

In April, members went to New York City, where they toured the New York Stock Exchange and Bloomberg offices and met with professionals at Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan.

Phi Beta Lambda and Collegiate DECA are national organizations. At the high school level, they are Future Business Leaders of America and DECA, respectively. Both organizations aim to develop competent and aggressive business leadership to create more interest and understanding of American business enterprise and improve business and citizenship through participation in worthy undertakings.

Competitive events for both organizations at the state and national levels allow students to gain recognition and develop leadership skills. This year, both groups competed at the state level. Seven PBL students won first place in areas such as marketing concepts, retail man-

agement, financial analysis and computer concepts. The students placed second in five events, two of which were team events: Business Ethics and Marketing Analysis and Decision Making. PBL students who qualified at state competed at the national level in San Antonio in June.

C-DECA placed in several events at state competition, and two students placed in national events at Salt Lake City in April. Cara Gooch, sophomore management and marketing major, was elected state president of C-DECA for 2012-13. Stu Dunlop, adviser for PBL and C-DECA, was the Missouri C-DECA Advisor of the Year.

— Dr. Beverly Block, Interim Dean,

Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration

Go to <http://www.mssu.edu/academics/business/clubs-organizations/index.php> for more information and a complete listing of all SOBA student organizations.

Thai culture highlights fall semester

The performance by the Somapa Thai Dance Company on Monday evening, October 29 will highlight the Fall 2012 Thailand Semester at Missouri Southern State University. The Somapa Thai Dance Company has been performing Thai classical dance in the Washington, D.C., area since 1999. Members were trained in Thailand by the most celebrated dance instructors from the prestigious Department of Fine Arts in Bangkok. The group's mission is to preserve and promote Thai culture and arts in the United States.



Ira Sukrungruang, author of *Talk Thai: The Adventures of Buddhist Boy*, will come to campus November 6 and 7 to discuss his "constant, often bumbling attempts to meet cultural and familial expectations while coping with the trials of growing up" in a Thai-American family in Oak Lawn, Illinois, in the 1980s. The book will be read by all MSSU freshmen through their University Experience classes.

Sukrungruang's visit will include three formal presentations, three book signings/Q&A's, and participation in the English department's Visiting Writers Series. He is an associate professor of English at the University of South Florida.

The Gockel International Symposium, which is the centerpiece of the themed semester, will be held September 27 and 28. The keynote speaker is Dr. Charles Keyes, professor emeritus of anthropology and international studies at the University of Washington.

Since the early 1960s, Keyes has carried out extensive research in Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia on Buddhism and modernity,

ethnicity and national cultures.

Keyes will speak at 9:30 a.m. on "Diversity, National Integration and the Questioning of Thai-news" and at 7 p.m. on "Cosmopolitan Villagers and Populist Democracy in Thailand" on Thursday, September 27. Dr. Mark Mullenbach, an associate professor of political science and director of the international studies program at the University of Central Arkansas, will speak on "Political Change and Instability in Thailand After the Cold War" on Thursday evening and at 10 a.m. Friday on "Government and Politics of Thailand in the 21st Century." Dr. Norty Wheeler, an assistant professor of history at MSSU, will serve as moderator.

Southern Theatre, instead of performing its usual themed-semester production, will stage a Nang Yai play of large shadow puppets November 1-3 in Bud Walton Theatre. Director Jim Lile and his students will build the puppets, and Brian Fronzaglia and his percussionists will provide music in accordance with each episode.

Other topics to be addressed during the Thailand Semester include Buddhism, the Thai language, medical tourism and sex tourism, seafaring pirates in the Gulf of Thailand and Strait of Malacca, spirit houses, volunteering/internship opportunities in Thailand, and a critical study of "The King and I" (the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical that is banned in Thailand) by Lile and Dr. Bill Kumbier, professor of English.

The semester will include a Thai film festival, readings by English department faculty, and a Thai cooking demonstration and food tasting.

The complete schedule will be available at www.mssu.edu/thailand in late June.

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82

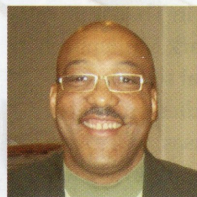
Director, Institute of International Studies

Somapa Thai Dance Company will perform on October 29 in Taylor Auditorium as part of the Thailand Semester in the fall. Guest speakers will inform students and the community about the country of Thailand. Each fall, the campus focuses on the history, culture and politics of a different country. — Submitted photo



New leadership is a familiar face

The School of Education is comprised of three departments: kinesiology, psychology and teacher education. Dr. Glenn Coltharp served as dean for the school for five and a half years.



On February 1, 2012, he left Missouri Southern to begin his new position as vice president of academic affairs at Crowder College. The vacancy left by Glenn's departure was filled with

two interim positions. I will serve as interim dean of the school of education, and Dr. Deb Pulliam will serve as the interim department head for teacher education.

Nearly 1,000 students declare themselves as majors in the school of education. The kinesiology department offers two degree options — physical education and health promotion and wellness. There are 94 students studying to be physical educators, and 181 students are pursuing the nonteaching degree. Graduates with the health promotion and wellness degree seek professional opportunities in a variety of areas including: fitness and wellness centers; community health; corporate wellness; personal training; physical therapy; and occupational therapy. Students have completed internships from the East Coast to the West Coast and in Hawaii.

Dr. Bob McDermid leads the psychology department, which offers two degrees: the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science. More than 200 students are seeking a degree in psychology, which will prepare them for careers in human and social services, research and business. About half of the psychology graduates will attend graduate school, with

the majority of them seeking the training to prepare them to become licensed professional counselors. Other students enter graduate programs in a variety of psychology specialties, including clinical psychology, social psychology and human factors engineering. Of those who do not immediately enter graduate programs, about half will become employed in occupations related to social sciences including: social work, probation and parole, mental health casework, and work within the juvenile justice system. Somewhat surprisingly, most of the rest of the department's graduates find themselves working in a traditional business environment.

The teacher education department is committed to "developing reflective educators for a global society." All programs have been approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The department offers many options for students desiring to be future educators. Degree programs exist for elementary education, middle school, secondary and K-12. As a result of a \$1.2 million English as a Second Language grant, the department has certified 100 teachers in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and offered professional development opportunities to more than 500 area educators.

More than 800 students at Missouri Southern State University have declared teacher education as their major. Graduates from this department can be found enjoying successful teaching careers in schools locally and around the state.

— Dr. Al Cade, Interim Dean, School of Education,



Dr. Pat Lipira (left) was named the interim vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Al Cade is the interim dean of the school of education. The appointments were made after the departure of Dr. Glenn Coltharp, former dean of education, and the decision by Dr. A.J. Anglin to return to teaching after serving as vice president for academic affairs. — Submitted photo

Courses aid firearms proficiency

The Criminal Justice Department for more than two decades has offered quality continuing education courses for area law enforcement personnel in our state-of-the-art Public



Safety Training Center. These educational and training programs keep officers current in the field while allowing them to obtain the required certification by the Missouri Peace Officer Standard in

Training mandated by the state of Missouri.

For the first time since 1874, citizens were authorized once again to carry a concealed weapon by the passage of Missouri HB 349 on October 11, 2003. The law allows citizens to carry a concealed weapon if they meet certain criteria, which includes a specified course with hands-on practical application.

Missouri Southern was one of the first to offer a concealed carry course in the state. The university offers different firearms-based courses. One is a concealed carry permit course for those wishing to obtain their Missouri Concealed Carry Weapon Permit. MSSU prides itself on being one of the few, if not the only organization, that provides such an interactive and informational concealed carry class.

Our concealed carry course is an eight-hour day separated into two sessions. A morning session covers the legal and practical components of the Missouri statute governing concealed carry with use of force. The afternoon session is three sections: live fire exercises, Firearms Training System (use of force justification video based scenarios), and safety concerns, such as weapon storage, cleaning and loading/unloading. A climate-controlled, automated 11-lane range provides practical application. The instructors have 50-plus years of accumulated experience.

The newly passed legislation in House Bill

294 requires participants of concealed weapon courses to qualify on two types of handguns. Each participant must shoot a revolver and semi-automatic handgun, expending 70 rounds through each weapon. Southern has the ability to provide either weapon to those who may not have both to comply with this new law.

A concealed carry course is offered every third Saturday of the month. Concealed carry courses can be customized for your business or organization by scheduling a day and time that meets your group's needs. The maximum enrollment in each course is 20 students.

Some of the other civilian-based firearms related courses are Basic Civilian Firearms Course, Legal and Technical Aspects of Firearms, and Open Range Night.

The Basic Civilian Firearms Course is for shooters with little or no experience with handguns as well as those experienced shooters wanting range time and/or

needing refresher training. The course covers nomenclature of the most commonly used defense handguns. The course also covers topics such as firearms safety, fundamentals for shot placement, grip, shooting stance, sight alignment, trigger pull and common malfunctions. Live-fire exercises are conducted in the indoor shooting range. The Legal and Technical Aspects of Firearms is an academic course for students to gain college credit and learn fundamentals around weapons. Neither course will qualify as a concealed carry replacement course.

Southern's Open Range Night is for people who want to keep current in their shooting skills and weapon knowledge. The range is open to those with a concealed carry permit, completed one of MSSU's firearms related courses, a current or retired MSSU employee, or military personnel.

— Dr. Tia Strait, '85 & '93, Dean,
School of Technology

For information or questions regarding concealed carry or other firearms courses please contact Jason Sharp, criminal justice continuing education coordinator, at sharp-j@mssu.edu or 417-625-9758.

States honoring a Missouri endorsement to carry a concealed weapon

Alabama	Idaho	Mississippi	Ohio	Vermont
Alaska	Indiana	Montana	Oklahoma	Virginia
Arizona	Iowa	Nebraska	Pennsylvania	Washington
Arkansas	Kansas	Nevada	South Carolina	West Virginia
Colorado	Kentucky	New Hampshire	South Dakota	Wyoming
Delaware	Louisiana	New Mexico	Tennessee	
Florida	Michigan	North Carolina	Texas	
Georgia	Minnesota	North Dakota	Utah	



Stephanie Rion (left) refers to the text and computer to identify parts of a heart held by Cory Morris. The freshman nursing majors and Tiffani Shafer, sophomore dental hygiene major, are using the new equipment in the biological sciences labs, which were added in the renovations of the Ummel Technology Building. — Photo by Rhonda Clark, '00

'Gray's Anatomy'

New labs bring textbooks to life for MSSU students.

After much anticipation, the Ummel Technology Building's biological sciences renovation opened for classes and public inspection.

An open house on February 21 gave Missouri Southern a chance to show off the \$1.3 million upgrade. The area features a student study laboratory, complete with microscope stations and student slide sets; a human physiology laboratory; anatomy and physiology labs; and a cadaver lab, which will be incorporated into anatomy and physiology courses as well as some biology courses.

Dr. Crystal Lemmons, department head of biology and environmental health, said programs were limited in Reynolds Hall because of space constraints. It had become a challenge to meet student demand for these types of courses. With more room comes new technology. For example, the anatomy and physiology labs feature an integrated microscopy system for interaction between stations for the students and the instructor.

"I expect our new facilities will attract students to Missouri Southern, and we are prepared for an increase in student enrollment," Lemmons said. "I believe the new facilities really make Southern much more competitive in the sciences, especially in

LAB RENOVATIONS

Student Study Lab Stations

- Microscopes
- Anatomical models
- Full-human skeleton

Human Physiology Lab

- Software programs and custom-built lab tables for physiological experiments

Anatomy and Physiology Labs

- Integrated microscopy system
- Computer stations with virtual dissection software
- Enhanced storage for student items and lab materials

Cadaver Lab

- Space for three cadavers
- Viewing platform
- Integrated camera system for high-definition demonstrations

biomedical science fields."

Dr. John Messick, professor of biology and environmental health, said the extra space is a welcome addition.

"We have fewer back-to-back classes, and that gives instructors adequate time to set up laboratories and clean up once a session has finished," Messick said. "It also gives us adequate time to set up our practi-

cal laboratory examinations."

JoAnn Graffam, '87, vice president for development and director of the Missouri Southern Foundation, said it is important to have updated facilities on campus.

"We're preparing students for the work force and for further education," Graffam said. "These new labs and the equipment in them help our students become better prepared for their chosen fields, and that's what we're here for."

She also believes staying current with technology benefits the local community.

"Since many of our graduates stay in this region, it has a positive trickle effect for the area as well," Graffam said. "The students receive a better education. They then become better employees for area employers. Area citizens then receive better care and services in any number of areas, such as nursing, dental hygiene, respiratory therapy and many other fields."

Messick expressed gratitude to the administration for investing in the latest equipment and laboratory furnishings.

"Students and faculty take pride in the new facilities and that translates into more enthusiasm for the demanding work in science classes," said Messick.

— Gabriela Heath, '12

Cadaver lab enhances curriculum

As part of the biology labs in the newly renovated Ummel Technology Building, Missouri Southern's first cadaver laboratory has been a welcome addition for students and faculty. The idea to use space in the Ummel Technology Building came about as part of a discussion that focused on ways to offer more sections of anatomy courses in



order to meet the needs of students.

A close look at the available space indicated that in addition to new anatomy and physiology labs, there would be adequate space for a cadaver lab. This was exciting news to many students and faculty.

As soon as students heard of the possibility of the cadaver lab, faculty began hearing questions: "Is it true? Are we really going to have a cadaver lab? When will it be open? Will it be part of my class? What can I do to participate in the cadaver lab?" Student excitement was definitely evident at this time, long before the cadaver lab was actually completed.

We have been using the cadaver lab for the past two semesters, to great success.

The lab houses two cadavers, one male and one female. The lab is designed to be used with all human anatomy courses, including combined courses such as human anatomy and physiology. While students also use anatomical models and software programs, the ability to study anatomy using an actual cadaver has increased their depth of study and awareness. It has been very rewarding to

see students completely focused.

In many ways, faculty have been just as excited as the students. Dr. Brian Davis, assistant professor of biology and environmental health, recently described a lab session for one of his courses in this way: "Imagine 20 students huddled around two cadavers. I wish I could have taken a picture; it was exactly the reason having a cadaver lab is such a great resource."

It has taken a lot of work on the part of faculty to restructure courses to allow for implementation of the cadaver lab. In addition, faculty worked hard to make sure the cadavers are prepared in time for lab sessions. Regardless, faculty found the extra work has been worth it to see the realization of a long-awaited goal.

The careful planning and implementation of this lab was done in less than a year. This was not an easy feat to accomplish and was done so by the tremendous joint efforts of multiple parties, both on and off campus. It is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and the highest climate control and ventilation standards. It has been designed with the student in mind, allowing the best possible visualization of the cadavers and for hands-on activities as well.

The cadaver lab is a resource that Missouri Southern can be proud of. It will provide a stronger educational foundation for any student that will study human anatomy as part of their curriculum.

— Dr. Crystal Lemmons, Head,
Department of Biology and Environmental Health



Dr. Alla Peters (right), assistant professor of biology, leads a discussion in the new cadaver lab for her human anatomy and physiology class, which includes Savannah Merideith (left), freshman nursing major, and Lindsey Bragg, sophomore biology major. —

Photo by Rhonda Clark, '00

75 years of Lion Pride

This fall, a yearlong celebration of campus life begins.

Beginning at the convocation on the afternoon of Sunday, August 19 to welcome our incoming freshman class, Missouri Southern will kick-off the celebration of its 75th year. From humble beginnings at Fourth Street and Byers Avenue, Missouri Southern has grown to a 373-acre campus, offering a variety of degrees and cooperative master's programs.

Throughout the year, we will have a number of programs and events to commemorate this monumental year. Athletics has something special planned for each home football game, recognizing

the many athletes who have represented Missouri Southern so well. Students will have a special celebration on the 75th day of school. Spring Spree will welcome back retired faculty and recognize current faculty with three special days of events, including a special production of the first-ever play, "The Patsy."

Homecoming is scheduled for October 5 and 6 and welcomes back all alumni and friends to campus to reminisce, tour buildings that have been constructed since their commencement and share their stories of Missouri Southern.

The Alumni Association is working

on a book to commemorate the past 75 years in the words of our alumni and friends. Be on the lookout for information regarding the date of purchase for this historic book.

If you have a story to share, please visit the MSSU Alumni Association website at <http://webapps.mssu.edu/FormWizard/FormViewer.aspx?Id=257> and tell us your experience. We would love to hear from you!

We look forward to seeing you often on MSSU's campus this next year to help us celebrate 75 years of Lion pride.

— Lee Elliff Pound, '86, Alumni Director

Presidents through the years



Dr. Leon Billingsly
1967 - 1978



Dr. Donald Darnton
1979 - 82



Dr. Julio Leon
1982 - 2007



Dr. Bruce Speck
2008 - Present

Note: Dr. Floyd Belk, '48, served as interim president from 1978-79; Dr. Terri Agee served as interim president from 2007-08.

Fall 2012 Calendar of Events

August 25: Springfield, Missouri, Cardinals Alumni Chapter Event#

September 8: Football 75th Anniversary Salute#

September 13: Kansas City Alumni Reception*

September 18-21: Career Services Luncheon Series* @

September 22: Football Hall of Fame Game#

October 4: The Diamond Jubilee Concert\$

October 5: Alumni Awards Reception and Homecoming\$

October 6: Homecoming Lion Pride

Brunch*\$; Homecoming Parade#; Homecoming vs. South Dakota#

October 9-13: Southern Theatre Production

November 3: Legacy Day#

November 4: Men's Basketball vs. MU#

November 8-10: MSSU Southern Theatre Production

November 9: Southern Symphony Orchestra Concert

November 10: Football Sonic Miner's Bowl vs. Pitt State#

December 1-2: MSSU Southern Theatre Production

December 4: Winter Orchestra Concert

December 6: Winter Percussion Ensemble Concert

December 7: Third Annual Season Choral Flourish

December 15: Winter Commencement

Key: *RSVP required; \$Registration fee; @Career/professional development event; #Family friendly event

Please view the MSSU Calendar of events for information or call (417) 659-LION. Send your name, class year and email address to alumniassoc@mssu.edu to receive updates on events.

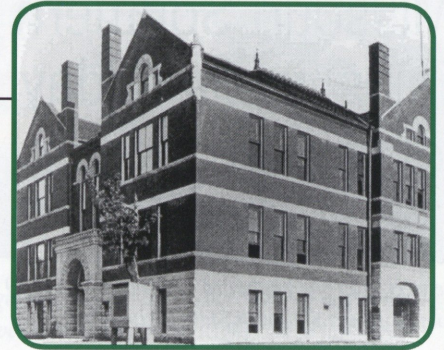
A Rich History

As the 75th anniversary approaches, we look at some of the years that made Missouri Southern what it is today.

1937: As an extension of Joplin Schools, Joplin Junior College opened.

1964: Mission Hills farm was purchased and a building fund was established for a new campus.

1965: Governor Warren E. Hearnes came to Joplin to sign House Bill No. 210. This established Missouri Southern as a state college offering baccalaureate degrees.



1967: The new 320-acre campus opened to 2,399 students.

1969: The first class of baccalaureate degree candidates graduated.

1977: MSSC became a state-assisted, four-year college.

1995: Southern's International Mission was approved by Governor Mel Carnahan.

2003: On August 28, Missouri Southern was elevated from a College to a University due to a bill signed by Governor Bob Holden.

2006: The first class of Master's Degree students graduated as part of a Cooperative Graduate Program with Northwest Missouri State University.

2009: The 71,000-square-foot George S. Beimdiek Recreation Center and Willcox Health Center opened on campus. This project also included intensive renovation to the Billingsly Student Center.

2010: The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center opens, giving alumni a permanent home on campus.

2012: Celebrating 75 years of excellence in education.

Leon C. Billingsly became first president of Missouri Southern State College.



Photos courtesy of Missouri Southern Archives, Charles Nodler and Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Information compiled from Brad Belk and story design by Jordynn Griffith, '12.



United as one

Missouri Southern joins Joplin in day of remembrance.

Editor's note: Special thanks to Amber Heiskell, '12, who helped with this story package the week after she graduated with honors May 19 from Missouri Southern State University.

The walkers were close to 6,000 strong as they headed west on 17th Street toward Range Line Road. And among those starting the 3.7-mile trek to Cunningham Park were about 150 Missouri Southern employees and students, wearing the familiar Lion gold.

The event, Walk of Unity, was part of the Day of Unity to mark the one-year anniversary of the May 22 tornado.

May 22, 2012, stood in stark contrast to what happened a year ago, when people flooded into Joplin, Missouri, to help after one-third of the city was damaged or destroyed. This time, people joined to remember the 161 who died and celebrate the resilience of a community as it rebuilds and heals.

Stephanie Goad, '97 and '04, international student adviser at Southern, was all smiles as she walked up to Cunningham Park at the end of the walk, where the crowd swelled to about 8,000. Goad and her family lost their home in the tornado, and the walk was the culmination of several events in a 24-hour period.

The evening before the walk, Joplin High School's graduation was held in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center, with President Barack Obama giving the commencement address. Goad's son, Dylan, who will attend Southern this fall, was among the class of 2012.

"It was a very emotional event for us because he should have finished his senior year at the old high school, and he had to attend in a shopping mall," Goad said. "But we're really proud of him, and it was a great ceremony and very moving."

The walk weaved through the path



Right, President Barack Obama visits with the Joplin High School class of 2012 as it assembles in Young Gymnasium prior to commencement on May 21. Below left, Governor Jay Nixon and President Obama listen to a student speaker along with Joplin R-8 Schools Assistant Superintendent Angie Besendorfer, '90, (left) and Superintendent C.J. Huff. Below right, about 4,500 graduates, friends and family fill the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center for Joplin's commencement. Facing page, participants move west from the corner of 17th Street and Range Line Road in Joplin, Missouri, as Walk of Unity begins. The event commemorated the one-year anniversary of the devastating tornado of May 22, 2011. Lower right, walkers begin the 3.7-mile Walk of Unity to Cunningham Park on May 22. — Commencement photos by Mike Gullett; all other photos by Amber Heiskell, '12, and Rhonda Clark, '00



"We're stronger together than we are apart ... That's the spirit that's allowed you to rebuild this city ... You'll encounter obstacles along the way. I guarantee you'll face setbacks and disappointments. But you're from Joplin, and you're from America. No matter how tough times get, you'll always be tougher."

President Barack Obama
Joplin High School Commencement Address



of destruction, leading participants past damaged structures, empty lots and new buildings. As they passed the rubble that was once Joplin High School near 24th Street and Indiana Avenue, shiny gold shovels stood in fresh soil — a sign of a new beginning.

Danny Craven, '97, Joplin High School multimedia center manager, said the May 21 graduation ceremony was a perfect capstone for what the students and faculty had been through this past year, but the May 22 event represented something more.

"Today, as we break ground on the new Joplin High School, we're ready to move forward," Craven said. "It's about today."

Penny Richeson, MSSU library clerk, was among the walkers.

"I was in Cambodia with a group from the teacher education department when the tornado hit last year," Richeson said. "This has been a very emotional experience for me today."

Tammy Spicer, '97, state public affairs officer for the Missouri National Guard, was in Joplin to assist with the high school graduation but stayed an extra day. She and two fellow Guard members walked on May 22 in the community Spicer once called home.

"It's a time for memorializing what happened and celebrating what is happening," Spicer said. "That's really a unique combination of emotions. Joplin is in everyone's heart."

Meagan Haring, '11, and her brother, Nick, '10, survived the tornado in a bathtub as the storm ripped apart their duplex near 17th Street and Connecticut Avenue. She now lives in North Dakota but came back to visit family and remember May 22.

Her Facebook post may sum up the feelings of many who walked that day: "I left with sunburnt cheeks and my heart just a bit more broken. Time to say goodbye to my life that was and look forward to my life that is."

— Rhonda Clark, '00

"It's a time for memorializing what happened and what is happening. That's really a unique combination of emotions. Joplin is in everyone's heart."



Above left, American flags were a common sight during the walk and at Cunningham Park. Above, Penny Richeson (right), MSSU library clerk, visits with a fellow walker on the site of Joplin High School. Left, Tammy Spicer, '97, state public affairs officer with the Missouri National Guard, remained in Joplin after assisting with the President's visit on May 21 to be a part of the Walk of Unity. Lower left, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints raise their hands as a prayer of blessing is spoken at the site of the new church at 24th Street and Indiana Avenue where a new steeple was installed.

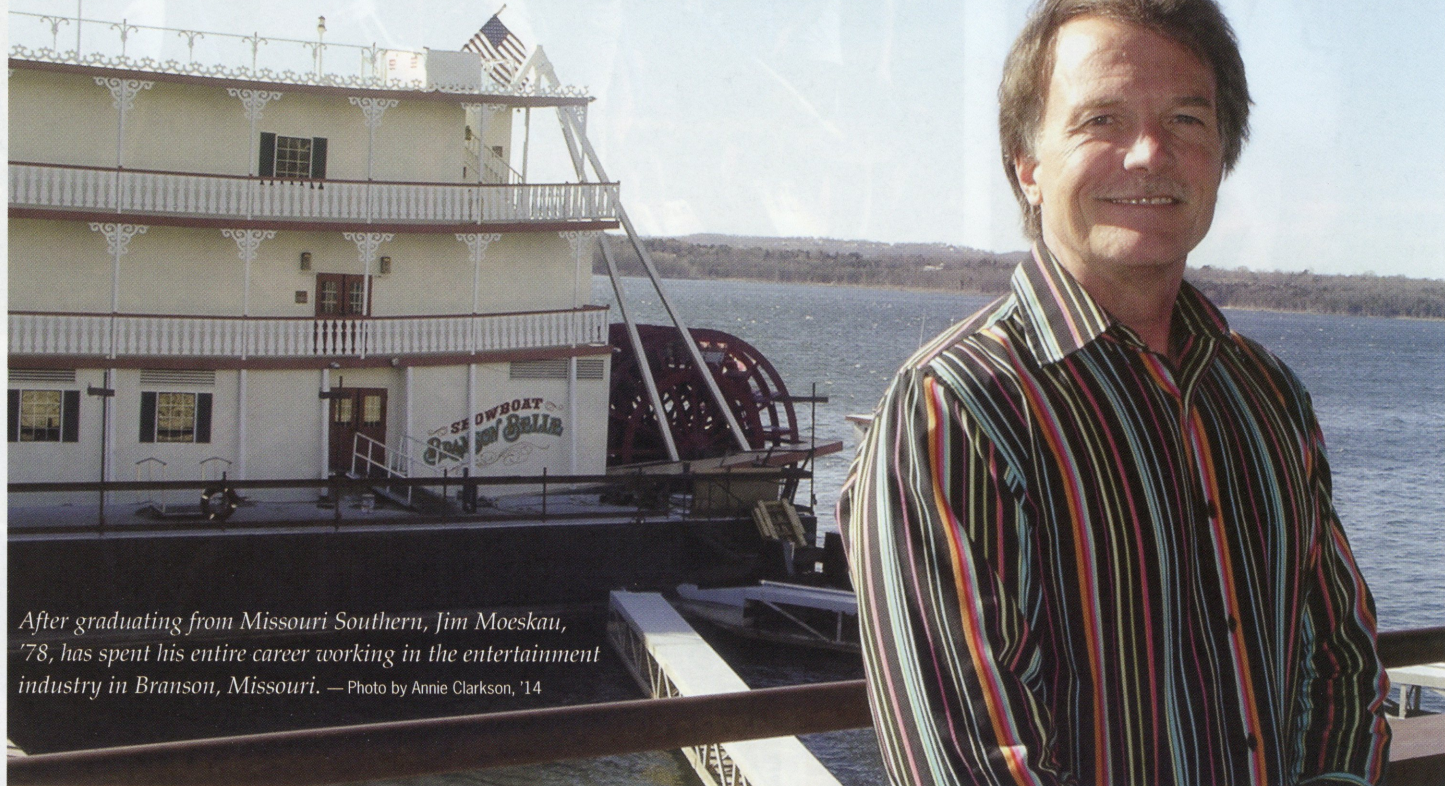




Top left, Kelli Price, '96 & '97, communication specialist for Joplin Schools, directs media before the groundbreaking for the new Joplin High School. Top right, school staff members and students turn dirt at the groundbreaking. Above left, William Lynch, '10, and his mother, Lucinda Lynch, '96, applaud at a speech in Cunningham Park. Above right, for many, the moment of silence at 5:41 on May 22 was an emotional time. Left, about 8,000 people fill the park for the Day of Unity Program. Right, the City of Tulsa Pipes and Drums plays "Amazing Grace" as the program begins.



It's Showtime!



After graduating from Missouri Southern, Jim Moeskau, '78, has spent his entire career working in the entertainment industry in Branson, Missouri. — Photo by Annie Clarkson, '14

Life on Table Rock Lake has its rewards for work and play.

Around the corner from Table Rock Dam, the Showboat Branson Belle sat empty in its dock, pounded by white-capped waves as March roared in like a lion.

But inside the boathouse, general manager Jim Moeskau, '78, and his staff were busy preparing for the launch of the 2012 season on March 30.

The Showboat Branson Belle is a three-story, paddle-wheel showboat featuring lunch and dinner cruises with musical and comedy performances.

After graduating from Missouri Southern with a degree in music education, Moeskau found a way to combine his love of musical performance with his love of Table Rock Lake.

"Growing up in Joplin, while going to high school and Missouri Southern, we

used to come down here and camp and fish and spend many a weekend on Table Rock Lake," Moeskau said. "I remember going to Silver Dollar City in 1967. I always said I wanted to retire here someday. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would live here and have my whole career here. This was not what I thought my career path was going to be."

Moeskau has a wide range of talent. His primary musical instrument is the French horn, but he also plays piano and can sing, dance, act, write and direct. He honed his performance skills while attending Southern, including serving as drum major for four years.

"It was a great education," Moeskau said. "I performed in just about everything I could. My mentors in Southern's music department, Wayne Harrell and Delbert

Johnson, were very supportive and gave me leadership opportunities."

Harrell, now retired from MSSU, stays in contact with Moeskau and is not surprised by his success.

"His career is unbelievable," Harrell said. "He's a very talented musician and a good organizer. He's very professional and understands the performing end of the business. It was just a matter of time before someone saw his talents and allowed him to take on more responsibility."

After MSSU, Moeskau earned his master's in music at the University of Texas. He came back to the area for a summer job as a piano player, singer and dancer in the saloon at Silver Dollar City. Since then, he has remained employed with the Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation.

Moeskau met Jeannie, his wife of 29



Left, the Showboat Branson Belle provides dinner cruises on Table Rock Lake in Branson, Missouri. Below, musical performers entertain dinner guests on the Showboat Branson Belle. — Submitted photos

SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE

The two-hour cruise includes a meal and an onstage show. Cruises begin the end of March and continue through December.

For scheduling and ticketing information, visit the website at www.showboatbransonbelle.com or call 800-475-9370.



years, when she was a dancer in one of the shows. Their son Kyle, 17, shares their love of music and the relaxed lake lifestyle.

"The lake is what drew me here and the lake is what kept me here, although the Herschend Corporation is a fabulous company to work for. It's the best one in the area, that's for sure," Moeskau said.

He moved into management at Silver Dollar City and began writing, directing and producing shows. His business and management skills were developed on-the-job.

"If I had to do it all over again, I would have taken some business classes," Moeskau said. "Now they have specialty degrees for the entertainment industry and they combine business classes into it."

He was promoted to general manager of the Showboat Branson Belle in 2005.

"It takes someone who, as in Jim's case, is just as fully developed in the right brain as he is in the left brain, meaning

that he is still an entertainer at heart," said Brad Schroeder, director of entertainment and events, Silver Dollar City, Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation. "He understands how to put together a good show — he understands the complexities of being a performer and technician— so he's able to make the folks understand what he's going for and be successful. And then at the same time, he can change hats and sit in the board room and talk to the president of the company about the profit and loss and how the business is doing."

Moeskau oversees maintenance, marine, wait staff, galley crew, entertainment, merchandising, set design, costumes and box office sales. In peak season, May through December, he manages 200 employees.

Recruiting new talent is another duty. Some of the talent comes from agents and local auditions, but he also travels to New York City, Chicago and Las Vegas in

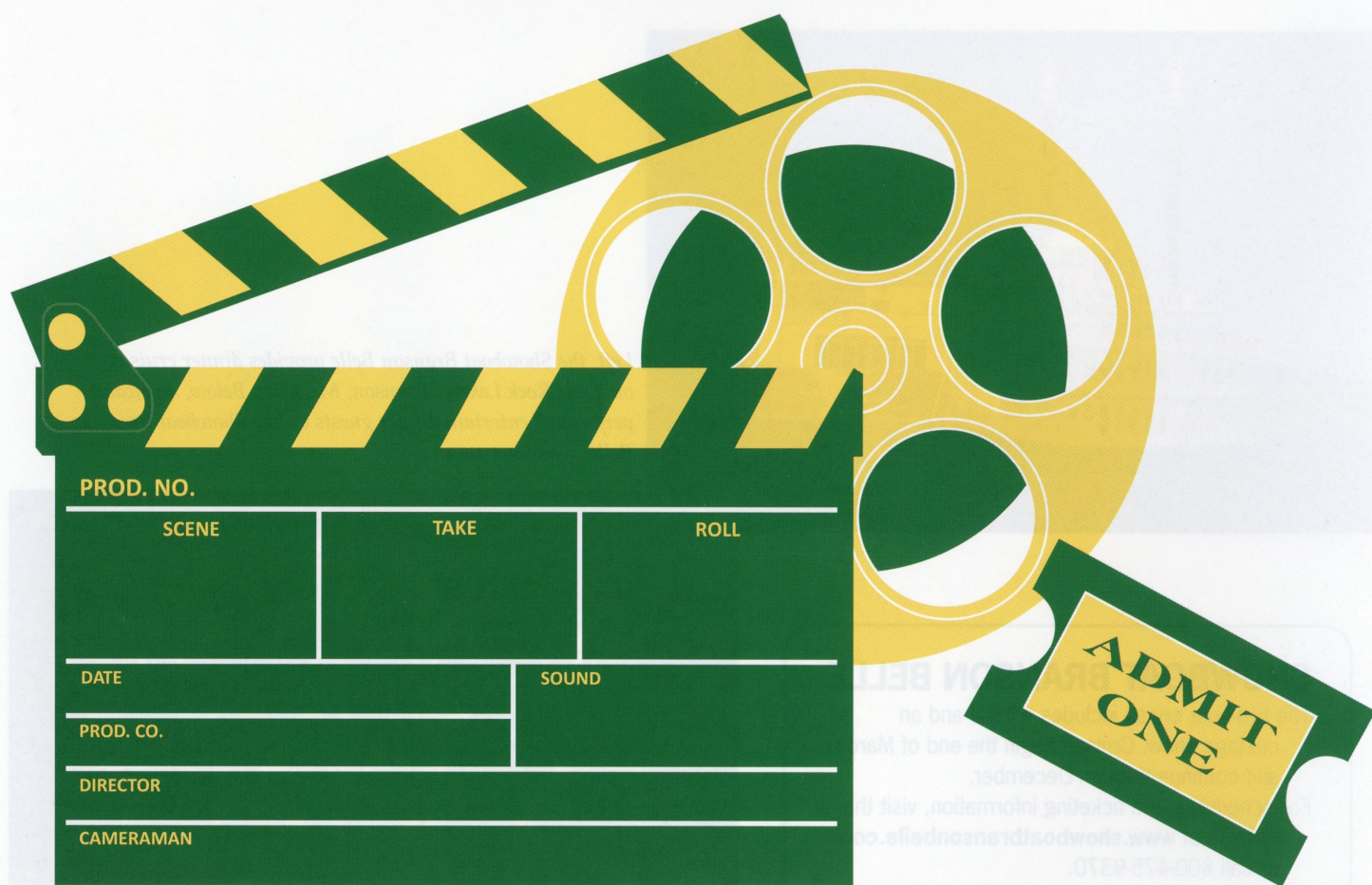
search of new acts. Moeskau believes the discipline derived from at least some level of secondary education provides the edge performers need in the competitive entertainment industry.

"When you script and arrange a performance, you want things very specifically timed stylistically to achieve the right mood or whatever you're trying to portray in the show," he said. "To me, that training is really important. I tell a lot of people, 'Just get a degree.' It shows that discipline. Doors will open if you get a degree."

He still plays French horn in the Branson Brass Quintet and performs at church, weddings and fundraisers.

"I definitely have that need and I get to get it out of my system, and that's enough for me now," Moeskau said. "If I ever retire from this job, I would want to continue doing shows, writing, directing, producing. I love the creative aspect."

— Annie Clarkson, '14



You ought to be in pictures

It took some time, but fame finally found Paul Whetstone.

The unwelcome ringing of a telephone pulled Paul Whetstone, '08, from his exhaustion-induced sleep. He was one day short of wrapping the second of two feature films that he had taken on simultaneously, and he was feeling it. He answered, hoping to dispose of the caller quickly in order catch some more Z's before reporting to the studio at 11 p.m.

As the reporter on the phone spoke and the words began to penetrate his sleep-deprived brain, Whetstone felt an excite-

ment inside. This was not the bothersome interruption of the sleep he so desperately craved. This was the beginning of a poignant trip of recalling his path to work as a professional actor in California.

Whetstone, 44, began pursuing his California dream in March 2011, but this career path didn't come easy. His dream actually began years earlier, when he started piano lessons as a 5-year-old. He later joined beginning band and developed a passion for the trombone at age 11, under the leadership of Matthew Holt,

who is now the show choir director at Missouri Southern.

"Matt Holt started me on this journey 35 years ago," Whetstone said. "He was very instrumental ... pun intended."

After graduating from high school in 1986, Whetstone began classes as a music major at the University of Arkansas.

"I played jazz down there for a year until I learned how to party instead of go to class and flunked out," he said. "I came back to Southern for one semester."

Whetstone and his wife, Sheira, mar-

ried in 1989 and life took another step away from his dreams of a music career.

Before long the couple was expecting a child, and Whetstone transitioned from National Guard duty, which he entered at age 17, to active service. He served a two-year stint learning Korean in the Army's language school at Fort Ord, California, where daughter, Tyrannie, was born.

When the Army downsized after the Gulf War ended, the family returned to the Joplin area. Whetstone attended the Southern Police Academy and became a police officer in Webb City.

An automobile accident and a life-altering encounter with Jesus Christ, combined with other circumstances, brought him back to the pursuit of his dream.

In 2004, Whetstone was preaching full time in a traditional ministry and singing with The Missourians, a gospel quartet. He returned to Southern as a nontraditional student that fall. By this time, he had long given up on the possibility that he might have a career in music and theater. His wife and daughter were instrumental in his return to academia.

"They pushed me to go back to school," he said.

It was a good move, as Whetstone went to work in the entertainment industry right after graduation.

"When I did my senior recital in February of '09 because I had been sick and couldn't do it before graduation ... I had a week before I had to report to my contract at Sight and Sound in Branson," he said.

He played Lamech in "Noah: The Musical" and various characters in the "Miracle of Christmas" for two seasons at the Branson, Missouri, theater.

"I did just under 1,000 shows in two years," he said.

When Sight and Sound failed to renew his contract for the third year, Whetstone accepted the invitation of some fellow Southern alumni in March 2011. He headed to southern California for a couple of weeks to see what opportunities he might find.

"I spent 10 days with them in their apartment, crashed on their couch, hanging out, catching up ... we hit three or four auditions, and I got call backs on all but one," Whetstone said.

He got a call on a Thursday, a day before he was scheduled to return to Bran-

son, and was offered the role of the priest in a production of "Light in the Piazza" at the Civic Light Opera in Redondo Beach, California.

"I called Sheira and said, 'What should I do?' and she said, 'Well dummy, take it,'" Whetstone said.

His first job in southern California resulted in being signed by a commercial talent agent, who was at the performance.

"I've been represented by Pinnacle Commercial Talent since May 2011," Whetstone said. "She sent me to a lady that taught me a class on acting with a camera in your face. I learned a whole lot from her."

By the end of October 2011, he had been in three stage productions, seven student films, and a TV commercial. He has since done two television episodes and completed two feature films — "The Stray" and "Wal-bobs." Production wrapped on his first co-starring role as a Russian crime boss in a film titled "Hollywood Hostel" in late February.

The rest of the Whetstone family relocated to southern California in November.

"It was exciting, but it was scary, too, and of course sad leaving family and all, but that's what planes are for and vacations and things like that, too," said Sheira Whetstone.

"It was kind of a chance to start over and support him and his career choice and the mission of course, so away we go."

Along with his acting career, Whetstone is active in their local church, sharing ministry duties and helping out when he can.

"Anything that I have accomplished has all been after Jesus made me into something worthwhile because I was a mess before him," Whetstone said.

— Robin Fjelstad, '14



PAUL WHETSTONE

Hometown

Webb City, Missouri

Professional History

Actor/Singer
Lead Trombone, Jazz Orchestra
Pastor
911 Telecom Officer
Police Officer
Army Counter Intelligence Linguist
Walmart Associate

Education

Missouri Southern State University,
Bachelor's of Arts in Vocal Music
Performance, 2008
Webb City High School
Defense Language Institute
Southwest Baptist University

Personal:

Parents: Russell & Mary Whetstone
Wife: Sheira Ann Snyder
Daughter: Tyrannie Ann



Feel the beat

'Royal' event enhances the learning experience.



Facing page, sophomores Chris Brill (left) and John Schwerdt perform with other members of the Royal Thunder Drumline in front of Kansas City Royals fans. Above, Brian Fronzaglia (right), professor of percussion and the director of athletic bands at Missouri Southern, and drumline members perform last fall outside the gates of Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals. — Photos by Andrew Pavlovic, '12

The music coming out of the band room was loud, so loud it seemed to invade the body. Snaps of the snare drum pierced the ears. The deep beats of the basses were felt in the chest. It was hard to keep from peeking through the sliver of glass in the door to see what the drumline was up to as it practiced for its next performance at the Kansas City Royals game.

From a young age, Brian Fronzaglia, professor of percussion and director of athletic bands at Missouri Southern, knew what he wanted to be when he grew up: a musician.

"I would say I'm one of the fortunate few that never really had to second guess what I was going to do in life," said Fronzaglia.

He has really put his musical experience to use in and out of the classroom. He uses not only his own experiences and examples to teach students, but hands-on professional performances as well.

Fronzaglia grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, with two brothers who were studying music and a father who was a music instructor. Fronzaglia was introduced to playing music at an early age.

"I started piano lessons at age 5 and

drum lessons at 6," said Fronzaglia.

"Each and every musical experience has given me a unique perspective that I can bring to the classroom."

Percussion is something that excited Fronzaglia on a daily basis. He loves being able to wake up in the morning and have a career he loves. His experience both as a performer and an educator spills over into his classroom.

"I want to give my students every possible opportunity to explore their own talents

so they can decide which career path in music best suits them," he said.

Fronzaglia worked to acquire a professional gig with his collegian Royal Thunder drumline with the Major League Baseball team, the Kansas City Royals.

Southern's drumline, which Fronzaglia both performs in and instructs, has locked in a contract with the Kansas City Royals to perform 15 games in the 2012 season, including opening day and all three days of All-Star activities. Even though Fronzaglia performs with the drumline, he wasn't the only one who

helped lock in this first-ever achievement for MSSU.

Without all the hard work and constant attention to detail, this might not have been possible. Fronzaglia is happy for the achievements they have made together and looks forward to what is still to come.

"It's definitely a lot of hard work,"

said Mike Sullivan, '12, a bass drum player for the drumline last fall. "But once you step foot in front of the crowd, it's all

worth it."

Education does not always have to be boring. Getting the students out of the traditional classroom mindset and into something fun and hands-on will benefit them in the long run and be reflected in the grade book.

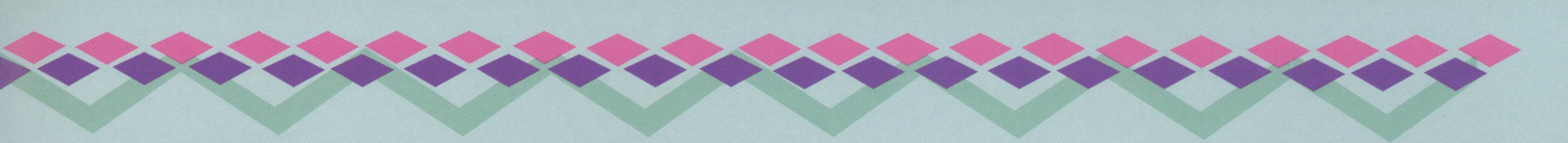
As Fronzaglia grabbed the drumsticks off his office desk and prepared to practice with the drumline he said, "Teaching or performing, I could never decide. I'm just fortunate to have the best of both worlds."

— Andrew Pavlovic, '12

"Teaching or performing, I could never decide. I'm just fortunate to have the best of both worlds."



Brooke Hines, '10, touches up the outdoor mural, which was painted by Irving Elementary students in Joplin, Missouri. The students were displaced when the May 22, 2011, tornado destroyed their school building. — Photo by Amber Heiskell, '12



The art of giving

Local charity uses art to inspire and encourage children, both locally and internationally.



Peace, love and family were the words chosen by one Irving Elementary second-grader for her poem. The project of the day was called "Found Poetry." The art tables were piled high with old newspapers and magazines, and the students cut and pasted their words to create poems. Under the watchful eye of Art Feeds educators and volunteers, the students illustrated their refrigerator-worthy creations with brightly colored oil markers.

Several years earlier, Art Feeds founder and executive director Meg Bourne, '10, made a discovery that would soon change not only her life but hundreds of Joplin elementary school children as well.

"A few years ago, I was working with a boy at Royal Heights Elementary, and we found out he wasn't being fed at home," said Bourne, founder and executive director of Art Feeds.

"We got that problem taken care of, and I kept

working with him with art, because I'm passionate about art. I gave him different mediums and he really progressed with watercolors. He could see, 'This painting has worth, now I have worth.'"

It was then that Bourne recognized the importance of art.

"When I realized art feeds these kids in ways just as essential as food, I knew we had to fulfill this need," she said.



Left, Brooke Hines (left), '10, and Meg Bourne (right), '10, watch as the children put their artwork on the mural February 23, 2012, at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Third Street in Joplin, which is the site of Irving's temporary home. Right, Irving Elementary School children take time from classes to bring some color to the streets of Joplin. Volunteers from Redlands (California) University also came to help with the mural. — Photos by Amber Heiskell, '12

She began working with other students, and the program snowballed to other schools in the district.

"In order to sustain it, I printed up some T-shirts and sold them to buy more art supplies," Bourne said.

Inspired by the change and impact she saw in her students, Bourne officially launched Art Feeds in 2010, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the growth and healing of children through art. Her students' handwriting and painted handprint became the company logo.

Within a few months, she assembled a team of diverse creative talents, including fellow alumni Brooke Hines, '10, and Marissa Fahrig, '10.

"We were all at Missouri Southern at the same time but didn't really know each other and had no idea we'd be doing something like this," said Fahrig, Art Feeds' CFO.

Together with 10 interns and several volunteers, they continued to expand the program in the Joplin elementary schools and other children's organizations.

The therapeutic benefits of creative arts were even more tangible after the May 22 tornado that tore through Joplin, affecting hundreds of kids in the Joplin School District.

"Meg and I lost our home in the tornado, but we knew that continuing the Art Feeds program would help kids cope with the trauma," said Hines, director of operations. "It's rewarding to help other people go through the coping process. Kids are very resilient."

They continued to offer Art Feeds throughout the summer and into the 2011-12 school year. Several different projects were targeted at kids' feelings about the tornado, such as constructing models of their homes and other buildings out of cardboard, symbolically rebuilding Joplin through art.

"Even six months after the tornado, we were working on a Restore Joplin project, asking the kids to draw what they wanted to see rebuilt in Joplin, and it got the kids talking about it again," Hines said. "One of the Art Feeds teachers identified a child who had just begun talking about what he went through."

In a time of instability, Art Feeds tries to provide students with some sense of continuity.

"The educators and volunteers are always the same at the different school locations," Bourne said. "This ensures we can develop a rapport with each child on an individual basis."

Lessons and events are not limited to arts and crafts. Arts Feeds also offers lessons in dance, performing arts, sculpture, photography and music. A series of African-themed lessons was offered this spring, including African music by local musicians known as Kufara.

This spring, a student group, Empowering Young Voices, enlisted the help of Art Feeds. The group project began in Dr. Ree Wells-Lewis' social problems class at Southern.

"Kids who have to testify in court don't have any place to wait. They're just sitting out in the hall with their abusers," said Shavonne McCoy, junior sociology major. "One of our group members, Jessica Davis, had previous volunteer work at the Joplin Courthouse, and she saw the need for kids to have a separate room. We had a meeting with Art Feeds, and they had all sorts of great ideas for the kids."

The children's waiting room at the courthouse is decorated with tables, chalkboards, picture frames and artwork provided by Art Feeds and their students. An open house on the completed project was held April 17.

Art Feeds continues throughout the summer with programs for Camp Quality, YMCA Summer Camp, Ozark Center for Autism, and the Boys and Girls Club.

Art Feeds was featured in the 200th (and final) episode of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." The produc-



Top, Van Gogh is the Mobile Art Center Art Feeds uses to bring supplies to the children. Above left, some art supplies inside the center. Above right, Bourne (left), Marissa Fahrig, '10, and Hines sit inside Van Gogh. — Photos by Amber Heiskell, '12



Left, Bourne works on art projects with students at Irving Elementary School in Joplin. Right, Bourne talks to Joel, one of the students in Gomaa Fettah, Ghana, in January 2011 when Art Feeds traveled to Africa to launch its program there. — Photos by Annie Clarkson, '14, and Dale Benfield, '01

ers surprised Bourne and Hines with the Art Feeds Mobile Art Center, full of art supplies, during the filming of ABC's 7-homes-in-7-days build in Joplin last fall.

"We had a hint that they might be providing us with some art packs for the kids," Bourne said. "We had been over at Cunningham Park painting trash cans and tables, and they called us over to the set and surprised us with the Mobile Art Center provided by CVS Pharmacy."

The mobile unit, nicknamed Van Gogh, is colorfully decorated with a design by Hannah Stouffer, an internationally known illustrator. The van accommodates 15-20 children and includes art supplies, easels, a stereo system and a large flat screen TV, all of which can be used inside or outside the van.

St. Mary's second-grader Ava Gould has been on the Mobile Art Center for school events and birthday parties.

"It's really artsy and cool," Ava said. "There's art and pillows and ballet shoes and really cool tables and a flip over TV. They teach you how to make art and really cool stuff."

The children are learning more than just creative arts. The motto of Art Feeds is: "Love Naively, Give Generously, Be Foolishly Compassionate."

"Recently, one of our Irving students, Ellie Benfield, handed us a brown bag with \$9.44 in it. She had saved her al-

lowance and wanted to make a donation to Art Feeds," Bourne said. "We were humbled by her generosity."

Another group of children dedicated their artwork to their friend who was in the hospital.

The Art Feeds staff has an ambitious vision for the future.

"We have a model for expansion, but we need funding and manpower in order to get in every school in Joplin," said Hines.

They serve more than 1,300 students in six elementary schools, one day a week, and recently expanded to the Joplin Head Start programs for preschool children.

But their goals extend beyond Joplin.

"All of us were interested in working on international projects," Fahrig said.

Bourne, Hines, Fahrig and an intern made several trips to Ghana, East Africa,

to bring Art Feeds to two schools which focus on rescuing children from slavery.

"These kids have nothing, but they are instinctively creative," Hines said. "We provide art supplies and instruction, but sometimes there are other needs we try to fill."

They are awaiting additional funding, construction and staffing to expand the Art Feeds program in Ghana. In the meantime, children from Joplin exchange postcards, asking questions such as, "Have you seen a lion today?"

"By connecting the Joplin children with the children of Ghana, they all learn that across the globe, art and expression can mobilize healing," Bourne said. "Our programs allow children to express themselves, think creatively, have a voice and actively grow past the trauma they have faced."

— Annie Clarkson, '14

Want to support Art Feeds?

The organization is always in need of cash and in-kind donations, volunteers and sponsors. Art Feeds also sells its retail products, or people can join The Palette, which earmarks donations for operating costs. Educators, interns and campus reps are welcome.

Art Feeds is a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation, making donations tax-exempt. Donations may be made through the website, www.artfeeds.org, or mailed to 2416 East 11th Street, Joplin, MO, 64801.

Never boring

For alumnus, emergency planning is a fast-paced job.

Richard Taffner's job forces him to prepare for the worst every day. Taffner, '91, is the interim planning chief over health care systems and national stockpile coordination for the Arkansas Department of Health. His primary responsibility is to oversee medical material requests in times of terror and/or natural disaster.

"Doing the emergency planning has given me the chance to use the education I got at Missouri Southern," said Taffner, who graduated with a degree in environmental health.

Taffner started working for the Arkansas Department of Health after graduation as an environmental health strategist and worked in that position until the events of 9/11 changed work procedures. World events and tragedies are constantly changing Taffner's work environment.

"It's really fast paced and challenging. It's never boring," said Taffner.

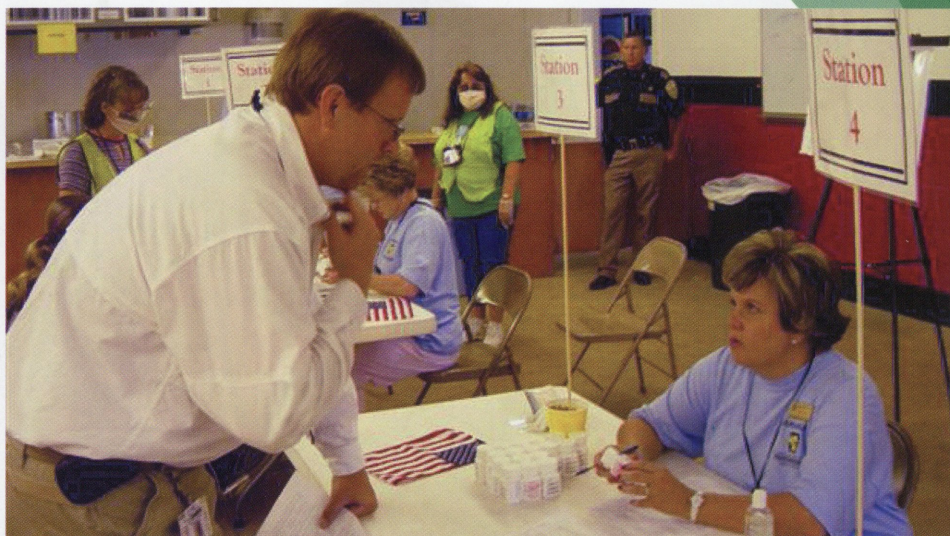
Although Taffner and his coworkers didn't help with any emergency response after the May 22 tornado in Joplin, Missouri, last spring, they were prepared if called upon.

"We always look at our neighbors," said Taffner. "We did ramp up to provide assistance if the request came in from Missouri."

While the Arkansas department provides assistance to other states as needed, it cannot help unless states make a special request.

During his time working for the Arkansas Department of Health, Taffner has developed the strategic national stockpile plan for the state of Arkansas; worked on the Chempack program, which helps state and local governments counter chemical attacks as quickly as possible; worked on an agency operations plan; and worked with the anthrax and plague infections as well as the smallpox virus.

At Southern, Taffner's focus was in the sciences. He started out as a biology major before switching to environmental health.



Richard Taffner, '91, (left) has worked for the Arkansas Department of Health in emergency planning since his graduation from Missouri Southern. — Submitted photo

"I work with epidemiologists all the time," he said. "Having the science background helps. I wouldn't be able to do that without it."

In choosing Southern, being close to home was a definite advantage to Taffner, but the personal relationships he was able to develop with some of his professors served him well.

"The great thing about Southern is it was local. I was raised in Carthage, so I was able to go to school locally," said Taffner.

Dr. Wayne Adams, Taffner's adviser, was instrumental in helping him find his first job in environmental health. Taffner said his chemistry adviser, Dr. Lawrence Albright, helped develop an interest in science.

Taffner keeps in contact with his alma mater, and has even hired a recent graduate to work for the state of Arkansas. He said the well-rounded education students receive at Southern and the close proximity to the state is a plus.

"I always try to look at Southern as a potential source of recruiting," said Taffner.

— Joanna Lee, '12

Did You Know?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention helps facilitate regional emergency response programs in order to prevent chemical and biological terrorism.

The Strategic National Stockpile Program was developed to ensure that necessary medical materials can be delivered in the event of chemical or biological terrorism.

More specifically, the Chempack Program was developed to allow state and local governments the ability to counter such chemical attacks as quickly as possible.

The purpose of Chempack is to ensure that antidotes are readily available for individuals who are exposed to hazardous chemicals.

Chempack places these antidotes in containers kept across the state to use in times of emergency.

Source: healthy.arkansas.gov



On the right track



Southern grad and her daughter develop a unique relationship.

When Shonna Sherrell, '04, agreed to take a coaching and teaching position for the Dixon (Missouri) School District, she had no idea this position would introduce her to her future daughter and friend.

Sherrell and Whitney Hardy, only 10 years apart in age, have a unique mother and daughter story. The duo met when Sherrell was coaching Hardy as a high school athlete. Before long, Hardy became the coach's foster daughter.

Hardy, one of Sherrell's track athletes, was in foster care after her first adoption had not worked out. Her caseworker, who knew Sherrell had obtained her license to be a foster parent while working for the Ozark Center, asked if she would be willing to take in Hardy. Sherrell was only 27 at the time, but she and Whitney had become acquainted through track. Sherrell didn't hesitate to help her 17-year-old athlete.

"It took us a little bit to kind of learn the roles," said Sherrell.

For Hardy, the age difference has really helped in developing a relationship with her mom.

"I think it makes us better friends than a lot of parents are with their children," said Hardy. "I like it better than a normal-person age. We relate better."

The two are close in age, but Hardy said the small age gap does not give her an easy out.

"She's mature for her age. Even though she's 30, she's probably stricter than all my friends' parents," said Hardy.

"I have to be," Sherrell added.

In 2000, Sherrell came to Southern as a heptathlete on a track scholarship and graduated in December 2004 with a bachelor's in education. After graduation, she coached horizontal jumpers at Southern while working at Turnaround Ranch for the Ozark Center in Joplin. After about two years, Sherrell accepted a position to teach school health and physical education

Whitney Hardy (left) and Shonna Sherrell, '04, say being close in age helps their daughter-mother bond. The pair also has something else in common. They've both been Lions for track and field head coach Patty Vavra. — Photo by Amber Heiskell, '12



At a place she calls home, Sherrell sits with Hardy at Missouri Southern's stadium while looking out onto the track. — Photo by Amber Heiskell, '12

as well as coach track and basketball in Dixon.

"That's how I met Whitney," said Sherrell.

The pair became foster child and foster parent in May 2008, and the adoption became official on October 29, 2008. They've only been together for about four years, but one would not guess that was the case.

"I think if you spent a substantial amount of time with us ..." said Sherrell.

"... you'd think we'd been mother and daughter forever," said Hardy, as she finished her mom's sentence.

Another interesting twist to their story is that they both participated in track and field at Southern.

After high school, Hardy attended three semesters on a track scholarship at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri. During that time, Sherrell moved to Carthage and accepted another position at the Ozark Center. Soon after, Hardy considered transferring to Southern. Sherrell encouraged her, largely because of women's

head track and field coach Patty Vavra.

"I love coach Vavra," said Sherrell. "She just had a philosophy I really agreed with, and I thought it would be a good environment for Whit."

For coach Vavra, it means a lot that Sherrell encouraged her daughter to run track for the Lions.

"It's always gratifying as a coach to be able to coach the children of your past athletes," said Vavra. "There's no greater compliment than a parent being comfortable sending their daughter to be a part of your team."

When Hardy transferred to Southern, she was able to receive advice from her mom and had a pretty good idea of what all of her coaches would be like.

"I knew exactly what to prepare her for," said Sherrell.

Vavra said Sherrell has had a great influence on Hardy.

"I think Shonna's helped Whitney

"I think Shonna's helped Whitney become a better athlete from a physical standpoint but had a greater influence on her mindset."

become a better athlete from a physical standpoint but had a greater influence on her mindset," said Vavra.

"There's an obvious mutual respect between the two of them."

Hardy also has a twin sister, Whitley Hardy, who moved in with them in the fall of 2008. Whitley, who is in the military and stationed in Texas, also went to Southern.

"I graduated from here, she (Whitney) is going to graduate from here, and her sister's probably going to graduate from here," said Sherrell. "This is always going to be my home."

— Joanna Lee, '12

Ticket to *RIDE*

Fans enjoy bonding experience on Lions' journey to the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri.

It would be a short trip, but the journey from Joplin to Kansas City on a travel bus with loyal Lions fans was priceless.

Keith Adams, '49, came up with the idea of providing a travel bus to take fans from Joplin to Kansas City for the men's basketball MIAA Tournament this spring.

"I have always had a lot of passion for Missouri Southern sports," Adams said. "The boys played great all year long, and it just inspired me to want to support them at the tournament."

"I wanted fans that didn't have transportation to get to Kansas City, and watch the team play, to have a chance to travel on a fan bus, enjoy the ride and get to know fellow Lions fans."

Adams was right when he mentioned the possibility of getting to know fellow fans, as they talked and bonded on the ride.

"I think making the trip on the bus was very well worth it," he said. "You really got to feel and sense all of the Missouri Southern pride and support that everyone had on the bus."

After stepping off the bus, it was obvious a tournament was in town. Rows upon rows of charter buses lined up outside of hotels.

Bright red, green, yellow and blue flooded the streets as hundreds of fans wore their team colors in support.

"I believe this is the best event that the MIAA puts on as a conference — getting all the communities together inside and

social really shows you that Lion fans are never afraid to show their support for MSSU," Greim said.

"I've been going to this tournament for years now. Even before the MIAA claimed Municipal Auditorium as its tournament

destination, it used to be the NAIA destination. I am just blessed to get to see my Lions battle in such an amazing auditorium."

The Lions matched up against Fort Hays State University in a game that would be a record-breaker. The well-matched teams battled to overtime play. The Lions would fall short in the back-and-forth battle when Southern's buzzer-beater failed to connect, giving the Tigers a 103-102 win. The Lions finished the season at 22-8.

"I felt so sorry for the boys," Adams said. "They worked so hard all season long to get a chance at the conference title, and to see them fall in the first round just hurts."

Even though it was a short, one-day trip, the environment, people and game made for a memorable time.

"It was an excellent game," Greim said. "The Lions showed tremendous determination — just couldn't get the breaks we needed to pull off the win. The overall experience, though, was outstanding."

— Jeremy Thomas, '12

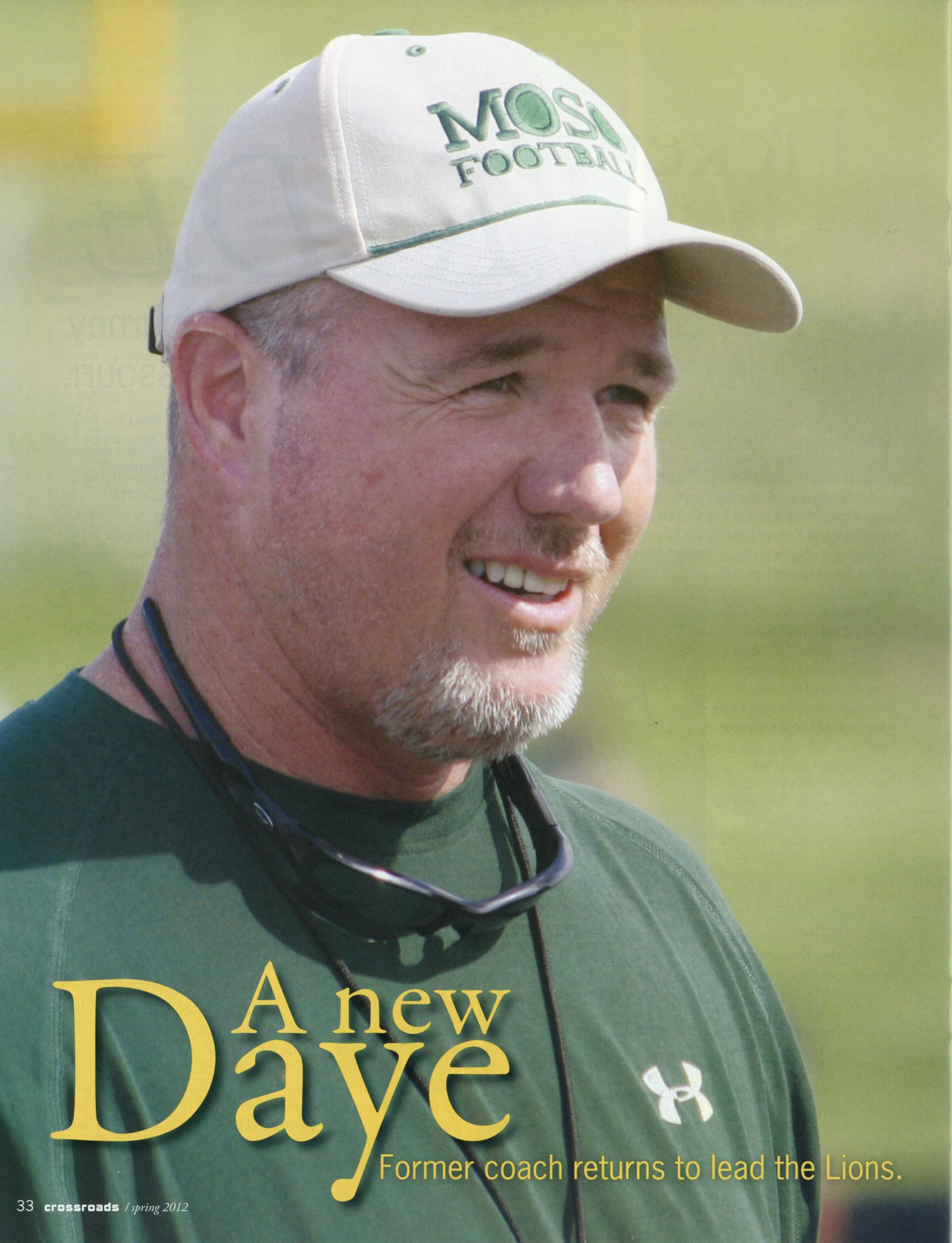


Members of the Missouri Southern Alumni Association socialize with each other after the first-round game in the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, this spring. The group took a chartered bus to the game to watch the men's basketball team play Fort Hays State University. — Photo by Willie Brown, '13

around Municipal Auditorium is just remarkable," said Kevin Greim, major gifts officer for the Missouri Southern Foundation.

Before the Lions headed to the court, fans cheered and showed their support at a pregame send-off.

"Everything from the pregame send-off at the team hotel to the postgame



A new Daye

Former coach returns to lead the Lions.



Left, head coach Daryl Daye (right) reviews the roster with strength and conditioning coach Troy Jorgensen on March 31, the opening day of spring training. Center, Daye shouts encouragement to redshirt freshman Anthony Price and junior defensive end Gary Combs. Right, Daye talks with junior wide receiver James Kurtz. — Photos by Amber Heiskell, '12

With a new look to the Missouri Southern football program, the coaching staff, along with returning and new players, will work to turn a 3-7 season last year into a winning season this fall. One person who will have a big part in the team's success will be new head coach Daryl Daye.

"I'm very excited and it's extremely rewarding to be able to coach here at MSSU again; I'm looking forward to any challenges that await me," Daye said.

When Lions head coach Bart Tatum resigned last fall, it opened up a void in the position, a void Daye couldn't resist. On December 16, 2011, Southern hired Daye, who became the 11th head coach in school history.

It's a homecoming of sorts for Daye, who was the Lions' defensive coordinator and special teams coach from 2005-09. In 2007, the Lions had their first winning season in 12 years, and Daye's defense led the MIAA in total defense for the first time in school history. With his return, Daye brings NFL experience after two seasons with the Buffalo Bills as assistant to the head coach.

He sees his time with the Bills as a plus for Southern.

"It was a tremendous opportunity to coach at the NFL level," Daye said. "I saw the overall commitment the players had; it was a very disciplined environment and believe it helped me improve my coaching."

Though the Lions finished on the downside in the 2011 season, they claimed some All-American and All-MIAA players. With a nice core returning, mixed with

new talent Daye and his staff have brought in, the Lions look to get back to winning seasons and conference titles.

"It's all about the process of believing; we want an all-out effort because I know winning comes from believing, and I want these players to be thirsty to win," Daye said.

All-American junior defensive back Brandon Williams was happy to see his former coach return to the Lions.

"He was the whole reason I came to this school in the first place," Williams said. "As for the team, I see a huge change in their drive and determination to become better and bring back the pride and tradition that Missouri Southern once had."

Junior wide receiver Kellen Cox is also excited about Daye's return. Cox said the new coaching staff is working to instill confidence in the players.

"As a team, we know that the only way to be successful in the MIAA is to execute the plays and game plans our coaches implement, and the only way that happens is with unity and trust," Cox said. "Each day we work out together and meet in the classroom, we're building that unity and trust."

Daye has a specific objective for his team.

"I believe my biggest reward for coming back to Southern is developing my players on and off the field," he said. "I want to see my players 20 years from now and they thank me for giving them a chance to be a good player or person; I just want to see them be successful."

— Jeremy Thomas, '12

DARYL DAYE

Professional

Head Coach, Missouri Southern State University (2011 to present)

Assistant to the Head Coach, NFL's Buffalo Bills (2009-11)

Defensive Coordinator, Missouri Southern, (2005-09)

Special Teams Coach, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (2003-05)

Head Coach, Nicholls State University, Thibodeaux, Louisiana (1999-2003)

Defensive Coordinator and Defensive Line Coach, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia (1990-99)

Assistant Coach, University of Southern Mississippi (1989-90)

Assistant Coach, Louisiana State University (1986-89)

Education

Master's in Physical Education, Southern Mississippi, 1990

Bachelor's in General Studies, Louisiana State, 1986

Personal

Hometown: Ferriday, Louisiana

Wife: The former Kathy Polko, an LSU graduate and former All-SEC selection in gymnastics



Left, junior Brandon Williams makes a tackle against Truman State. Center, senior Collin Howard looks for a receiver as he prepares to pass. Right, senior Elin Skei sets the ball in a conference home game last fall. — Photos by Mike Gullett and Justin Maskus

It's a wrap ...

Fall teams show Lion spirit with pride.

Football

The Lions went 3-7 in 2011 with wins over Lincoln, Truman State and Southwest Baptist. The game against Lincoln pitted the two schools in the Gateway Classic, a game played in the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

In the game against SBU, the Lions broke numerous school records in a 68-point explosion against the Bearcats. Southern broke a record for total offense (672), a record set previously in the year against Lincoln. The Lions also set a record for first downs (35), breaking the previous mark of 33 set against Washburn in 2002. They tied marks for total points (68), with the previous mark coming against Evangel in 1982, while the nine sacks in the game tied the school record set twice, once against Fort Hays in 1988 and again against Missouri Western in 1991.

Junior defensive tackle Brandon Williams again was named an All-American as three different publications picked him. He was a unanimous All-MIAA pick, as well as being named All-Region. Joining Williams on the All-Region and All-American teams was junior wide receiver Landon Zerkel. Zerkel was also a first-team All-MIAA pick with Williams and senior center Ian Saxton. The Lions had 10 named to the All-MIAA squad.

Not to forget the talents in the classroom, two Lions were named Academic

All-American as Kenny Smith and Alex Wong picked up those honors. Smith was a first-team pick; Wong was third team.

Volleyball

The team suffered through a tough season that saw an injury sideline its starting Libero before the season started. The Lions also played with a rather young lineup, starting three freshmen at various times throughout the season.

That didn't stop the Lions from seeing some success this season. Senior Rachel Olinyk led the team with 3.25 kills per set and was an All-MIAA selection.

The Lions also swept the season series

with Pittsburg State, winning in Pittsburg for the first time since the 1999 season, taking the point in the Sonic Trophy Series between the two schools.

Soccer

After starting the season 0-7-1, the Lion soccer team won nine of its last 12 games to finish third in the MIAA regular season. The Lions found their way to the championship game of the first MIAA Postseason Soccer Tournament, held at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

In the MIAA Postseason Tournament, the Lions defeated sixth seed Southwest Baptist in the 88th minute on a goal by sophomore defender Dana Wilhelm. With that win, the Lions were poised to take on the No. 2 seed Truman State Bulldogs, who had beaten Southern twice this season, both in overtime.

The Lions were down early in the 24th minute as the Bulldogs struck first, before Southern found the back of the net in the final seconds as junior forward Megan Stueve connected on a pass from junior defender Corinne Tebbs to send the game into overtime.

This time, the Lions would exact revenge, as senior midfielder Shannon Kuhn connected on a Tebbs' corner kick to advance the Lions to the MIAA Postseason Tournament Championship against eighth-ranked Central Missouri. Central defeated Southern, 3-1.

For the season, Tebbs was named to the second team All-MIAA while Stueve and senior midfielder Michelle Dimza earned honorable mention honors.

Left, senior Michelle Dimza makes a run down the field. Center, freshman Eric Schott competes in a cross-country race. Right, junior Marlee Tegenkamp carries a strong pace during the Southern Stampede. — Photos by Mike Gullett and Justin Maskus



Men's Cross-country

The team had a tough start to the season as the annual Southern Stampede was canceled for the first time in its more than 20-year existence. Heavy rains and lightning led to the cancellation of the event. To make up for the loss of the home event, the Lions hooked up with Pittsburg State for a duel the next week, and Southern came away victorious.

Southern would go on to win the Missouri S&T Invite later in the season, and finished third at the 2011 MIAA Championships. The Lions' Eric Schott was named the

MIAA Freshman of the Year and also earned All-MIAA honors, along with Jake Benton and Andrew Webster.

Southern kept up the momentum the next weekend and placed fourth at the NCAA Division II South Central Regional, where Schott, Benton and Webster were named All-Region.

Women's Cross-country

The team would have to suffer the loss of a big home event, as well, to start the season, but the Lions made up for it with a strong finish to the season. Marlee Tegenkamp won

the duel with Pittsburg State, and won the race at Missouri S&T, while the Lions placed third as a team. Southern placed second at the 2011 MIAA Championships, where Tegenkamp placed second. Rachel Schrader and Tegenkamp were named All-MIAA.

Tegenkamp kept up her hot streak, as the junior placed second at the NCAA Division II South Central Regional meet, qualifying for the NCAA Division II National Meet.

The Lions placed sixth at the regionals, and Tegenkamp and Schrader were named All-Region.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information

Basketball teams end seasons with strong finishes.

Men

The team once again showed it is one of the best programs in Division II, as the Lions made their second-straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Southern started the season ranked No. 4 in Division II, and after a 9-0 start, the Lions climbed to the No. 1 spot in the NABC Division II poll after that week. It was the first time in school history that the men's basketball team was ranked No. 1. The Lions would be ranked each week of the year, finishing the season ranked No. 23.

Senior center Keane Thomann made it two years in a row for the Lions to have the MIAA and Regional Player of the Year. The big man was a first-team All-MIAA pick and was eventually named to three different All-American teams. He was an All-Region selection and was picked to play in the Division II All-Star game. He finished his career at Southern as one of the best big men to ever wear a Lions' jersey. He holds school records for best single season and career field-goal percentage, as well as being No. 6 on the all-time scoring list with 1,523 points.

Jason Adams joined Thomann on the All-MIAA and All-Region teams and made his name known among the best ever to play at Southern. He finished his career with the second-most points in school history (1,981) as well as the second-most 3-pointers in a career, with 213. He has the fourth-most points in MIAA history and scored the most points of any player in the MIAA over the last 27 years.

Sophomores Marquis Addison and Jordan Talbert were also named All-MIAA by the coaches of the league.



Left, senior Keane Thomann shoots over Mizzou's Steve Moore in the One State One Spirit Classic last fall at Missouri Southern. Right, Erin Rice fends off a Missouri State player in the exhibition game at Southern last fall. — Photos by Mike Gullett



Women

The Lions had to overcome a major offseason injury, when senior Michelle Hedgecock tore her ACL in summer workouts. She sat out a good part of the season, making her first appearance on December 30 at Pittsburg State.

Junior Erin Rice led the Lions in most categories, scoring 388 points on the season and grabbing 139 rebounds, all while shooting a team second-best 42.9 percent (138-of-322) from the field and a team best 31.4 percent (27-of-86) from beyond the arch.

Rice was also the lone Southern representative on the All-MIAA team, earning third team honors.

Senior guard Larrita Gipson was the assist leader, dishing out 69 dimes on the season, while freshman guard Haley Weathers led the way at the charity stripe, going 34-of-40 and 21-of-29, respectively.

Conference play for the Lions was highlighted by a sweep of Missouri Western for only the second time in the history of the series between the sister schools. The previous sweep was in 2010-11, and the Lions have won five of the last six from the Grifons. The season ended on a positive note for the Lions, as they knocked Northwest Missouri State out of the MIAA Postseason tournament with a 61-49 victory in Maryville.

Southern will return four players — three starters — from this year's squad for next season. In addition, the Lions have added Jim Graffam, volunteer assistant, and former Lion Jamie Green, '04, as assistant coaches for next season.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information

The road^{less} traveled

For one single mom, a special program helped her stay the course toward graduation.

Belinda Cotten, '08, and her daughter, Carmela, enjoy time outdoors at their home. Cotten found success as a single mom through Missouri Southern's Project Stay program.

— Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14



Belinda Cotten was never the average student. The 30-year-old has experienced much since graduating 13 years ago from a small Christian high school just outside of Joplin, Missouri.

Several life-changing events influenced her after high school — including 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina — before Cotten graduated from Missouri Southern in 2008.

Oh, and she had a baby, too.

Cotten referred to this last event as if it was some easy task, but having her daughter may have

been the biggest strain on Cotten's education.

"It was the hardest thing I ever went through in my life," Cotten said.

However, being a part of Southern's Project Stay helped Cotten stay focused on her education. The federally funded program provides a support system for first-generation college students.

Cotten said her family was proud that she went to college, but they didn't support her efforts financially.

Her father, a lifelong construction worker, dropped out of high school to help support his family after his parents' divorce and always said people didn't need a college education to be successful. Cotten agreed with the sentiment but also knew she didn't want to be on her hands and knees hammering nails for the rest of her life.

After being told she could never make it in college, Cotten enrolled at Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri, taking six hours her first semester. She then transferred to Southern, but the college experience would soon be met with several interruptions.

In 2005, Cotten headed to her home state of Louisiana to help with recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. While there, she reconnected with an old friend from Joplin, and the two began a relationship. After Cotten moved back to Joplin, she discovered that relationship was about to get serious real fast.

"I remember it was at the end of March because my cousin had just had her baby," Cotten said.

"So I'm at the Walmart getting a baby gift for her shower, and I thought, 'Ugh, I wonder what's going on.'"

Cotten was a smoker at the time and took note of the fact that her morning cigarette was making her nauseous every day.

The thought hit her at an opportune time. She bought a pregnancy test, and sure enough, she was pregnant. That's when panic set in.

"I'm like, 'OK, how can I do this?'" she said. "How can I, you know, go to school; how can I work; how can I support a baby; how can I be a single parent? How is this going to work for me?"

A friend told her to make a list of everything she thought she'd need, including the goals she had for herself and the

baby.

"I wrote all my plans for the baby," she said. "I wrote all my goals for the future, all my classes that I had, all the classes that I needed, how I was going to do this. I just had this big plan."

The biggest piece of the plan? Graduate. Nothing was more important.

"The older my child gets, the harder it's going to be," she thought at the time.

She was right about things being difficult, though, considering life as a single parent is hard enough on its own.

Cotten had no idea how hard things would be. Upon returning to Southern, Cotten began taking more hours than she ever had in an attempt to finish her education before her daughter turned 2. Time became a scarce commodity.

A friend suggested Project Stay during Cotten's first stint at Southern, and she was a member the entire time she was here as a student.

Dory Quinn, director of Project Stay, said the program can be an invaluable resource for qualifying students, especially single parents who generally meet at least one of the program's three requirements for membership.

"Probably the biggest way (we can help) is just the support system," she said. "What we see a lot with single parents is that they've already got a lot on their plate before they even think about coming back to school, but they also don't have the kind of support system that some of our other students do."

Cotten's daughter, Carmela, was born November 28, 2006, three weeks before finals were set to begin. Cotten finished three of her classes before her daughter arrived.

And, that goal she had set for herself, was almost attainable.

"My goal was to graduate by the time my daughter turned 2," Cotten said.

"She turned 2 November 28, 2008, and I graduated December 13. I almost made my goal."

After graduating, Cotten, who is expecting her second daughter in July, landed a job as a transfer admissions counselor at Southern, where she can pass some wisdom on to students starting their paths to a degree.

"My best words of motivation to any student are just no matter what obstacles get in your way, just keep going forward," she said. "You're never standing still as long as you're moving forward."

— Nathan Mills, '12

PROJECT STAY

What: A federally-funded TRIO program with a mission to provide comprehensive resources for students as they complete their bachelor's degrees and transition to graduate school and professional life.

Why: Students in Project Stay can benefit from a variety of resources including: one-on-one academic advising; priority enrollment for freshmen and sophomores; career exploration opportunities; personal counseling, mentoring, and support groups; tutoring and study groups; assistance with completing annual federal financial aid forms and finding other forms of financial aid; and trips to area cultural sites and graduate schools.

Who: To qualify for Project Stay, students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, have at least a 2.2 cumulative GPA, and meet one of the following qualifications: a first-generation college student; meet an income guideline; or be a student with a disability

For more: Call 417-625-9830.

Q&A:

Communication graduate discusses his career as a fiction writer and attributes much of his success to MSSU and being an avid reader.

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about your career?

A: I've always loved books and magazines, and after changing my major a couple of times, I landed in the communications department at Missouri Southern around '84. I was a senior editor on *The Chart* and convinced Chad Stebbins, '82, and Richard Massa to allow me to publish a literary tabloid, *Avalon*. I decided that I wanted to work in magazines rather than daily or weekly newspapers. After graduating from Southern in 1986, I worked as a magazine writer and editor for 10 years. I finished as a managing editor at National Communications for *Golf Illustrated* and two freshwater fishing titles. It was a family-owned company, and I got to try my hand at nearly everything: writing and copy editing, cover blurbs and designs, and layouts.

Q: What motivated you to start writing fiction and motivates you to continue writing?

A: When I exited the publishing business for a marketing career at a Tulsa high-tech company in 1996, I had already written and sold several short stories. My first fiction sale was inspired by a visit to a Tulsa mega-bingo hall for a magazine feature. It was a sleepy weekday afternoon, and as I surveyed the people assembled to play endless rounds of bingo, I had the idea for "Night of the Living Dead Bingo Women." That story was published by a now defunct small press digest, and then it appeared in a major hardback/paperback horror collection called *Book of the Dead 2: Still Dead*, edited by NYT bestselling writers John Skipp and Craig Spector. Encouraged, I began writing more stories in the horror and science fiction genre and sold a ghost story to *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. I loved writing short fiction and I sold a dozen or more stories through the '90s — more tales in *Alfred Hitchcock's*, *Tomorrow SF* and other anthologies. From 2000-09, I didn't write, and I finally realized that something integral to my happiness was



McCaffrey, '86, graduated with a degree in communication. He and his wife and children live in Tulsa, Oklahoma. — Submitted photo

missing despite a good career and my family. I started again in 2010, and I plan to never stop.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about the books you've written?

A: I'm working to complete my first novel, *Wildfire*, which I successfully pitched to a respected indie genre publisher last year. It's a modern-day medical thriller with a horror/SF bent in the vein of the late Michael Crichton. I also was commissioned to contribute a novella-length story to a shared author novel due in late 2012/early 2013 called *Living Death Race 2000* — a fun riff on the classic Roger Corman film but set in a post-apocalyptic world where the undead rule. Several award-winning writers are contributing, including Weston Ochse and John Everson.

Q: You were an Honorable Mention recipient in the L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future contest twice. What was it like to win this award?

A: This was encouraging when I was just starting to try to write and sell fiction. The contest is only open to those who haven't really broken through profession-

ally. I wanted to win the contest, but I did win in a sense — I sold several stories not long after the Honorable Mentions and put myself out of contention.

Q: What has been key to your success as a fiction writer?

A: You have to read a lot (in and out of your preferred genres), and as bestselling writers Joe Lansdale and Stephen King will say, you have to write — every day, if possible. You carve out an hour or two and keep at it. If you can write 1,000 to 2,000 words a day and be consistent, and assuming you have storytelling talent, you will make progress.

Q: How do you think MSSU prepared you for your career?

A: I owe a lot to the excellent journalism program at Southern and Chad and Mr. Massa (I still cannot bring myself to call him Richard). They expected a lot from us, but they were incredible teachers and they knew how to inspire students to excel. The entire communications department was filled with talented and motivated educators.

Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring writers?

A: Read a lot — fiction and nonfiction. You have to be in love with words and the written language and storytelling. You have to want it badly enough to sequester yourself from friends and family for hours and hammer away. You have to get the bad writing out of your system and push yourself to learn the craft. And you have to have a thick skin and soldier on. Even the best writers get plenty of rejection slips and emails. You have to be persistent. Ultimately you have to love it — you cannot approach it as a quick means to becoming the next J.K. Rowling so you can retire as a multimillionaire. You can be successful but you'll probably want to keep your day job!

— Joanna Lee, '12

To learn more about Simon McCaffrey visit simonmccaffreyfiction.blogspot.com to see other pieces he has written.



**ORDER YOUR
BRICK TODAY**

There's still time to make a tax-deductible donation or purchase a gift in honor of a loved one, acknowledge a graduate or recognize a family member. Become a permanent part of this project with a gift of \$100 per brick. You can cement your legacy and support the MSSU Alumni Association directly at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Your contribution will include your inscription on a premium-quality brick. Each engraved character will be filled with black epoxy for legibility.

Cement your legacy with a courtyard brick at The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center

(You can pay by check or credit card)

Personalized Brick Order Form

The 4 x 8 brick can be imprinted with three lines of up to 15 characters per line (including spaces). The 8 x 8 brick can be imprinted with six lines of up to 15 characters per line (including spaces) or one company logo. Please print (with capital letters) the name or message you would like on your brick in the boxes below, or attach a black and white camera ready corporate logo to the form. MSSU Alumni Association reserves the right to choose type size and arrange words to maintain balance and improve legibility. Bricks are laid once a year in June.

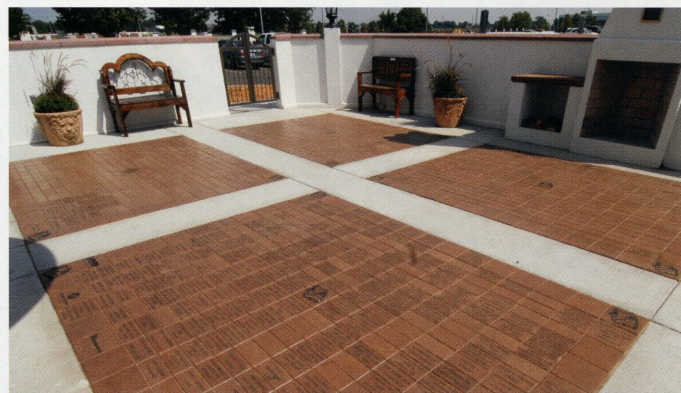
Brick #1:

Brick #2:

Brick #3:

Brick #4:

Corporate Brick Order:



The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center's Alumni Courtyard is complete, but brick spaces are still available. Join your fellow alumni and secure a brick in your name, for your organization or as a memorial.

Brick Program

I wish to donate the following tax-deductible:

() \$500 8 x 8 Paver

() \$100 4 x 8 Paver

Six Lines, 15 Characters Each Line

or Company Logo

Three Lines, 15 Characters Each Line

Payment method:

() Check

() Credit Card

Credit Card: ()

VISA

()

MasterCard

()

Discover

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security #: _____ (three digits on back of card)

Please fill out all fields:

Name: _____

Address: _____

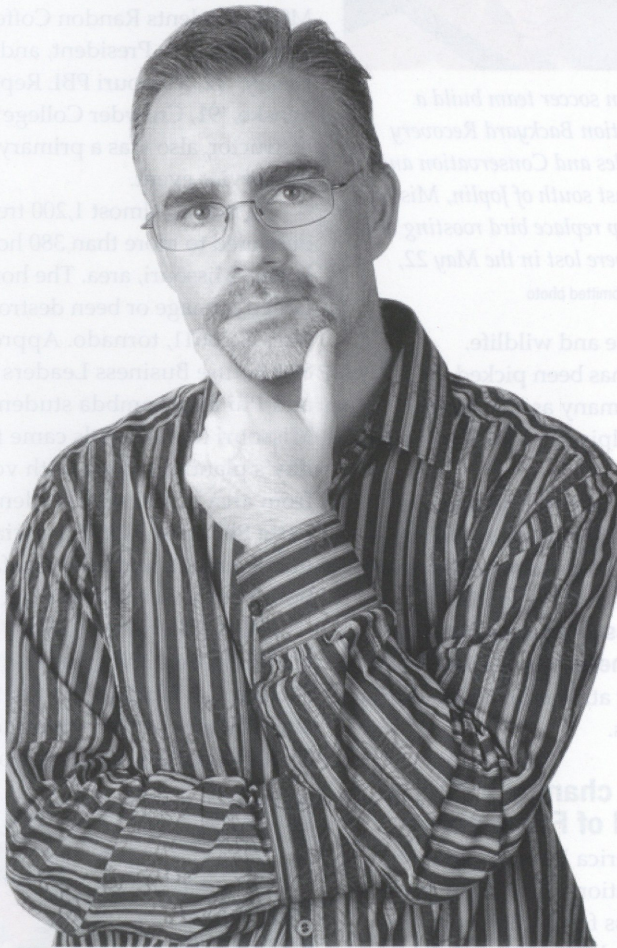
E-mail: _____

____ Please send me ____ cards to acknowledge my gift to forward to my honorees.



Lion Tales

By Joanna Lee, '12



"Our goal has always been to deliver the best of both worlds and discuss what our clients want and need in a language they can understand."

John Motazed, '91

Missouri Southern State University alumnus and owner of SNC Squared

JOHN MOTAZEDI

Who: Missouri Southern alumnus, computer science, 1991.

What: Owner of SNC Squared. We provide IT services and service solutions to local companies. We become their in-house IT service department.

Secret to Success: Commitment to building a world-class company. A premier partner to our clients and vendors. Accountable to our clients, employees and shareholders. To give unselfishly. We measure customer service, and client satisfaction is key — using feedback and direct discussion on tasks, services and deliverables. We use best-of-breed technology to solve day-to-day problems.

Greatest Challenge: With a field so demanding, our greatest challenge is to find people who have a passion for technology and a love for communication. Unfortunately, we have been typecast that if we are a good tech, then we must be geeks and no one can talk to us or understand what we say. Our goal has always been to deliver the best of both worlds and discuss what our clients want and need in a language they can understand. We are continuously looking to find people who not only have a passion for this but would do this even if it wasn't their job.

How were you affected by the 5/22 tornado?:

We lost our entire building. We had to cut our servers out of the rack, which collapsed when the west wall caved in on them. We manage about 1,000 machines for our clients, out of which 467 of them were destroyed, never found or damaged beyond repair. Even though we recovered each and every single one of our clients in 72 hours, many of them decided to close their businesses. The opportunity for them to use our cloud services and to get all the accounts receivables paid was unbelievably efficient. We had our offices up and running in five hours and all of our clients in 72 hours. Our next goal was to reach out to the community, and even our competitors, to help them. The message was simple: "If you are affected by the tornado, we are here to help."

Southern Memories: Lots of good times down at the Campus Activities Board office helping with school-sponsored events. Spending time in the student center with friends. I have built many lifelong relationships with people. This was where my decision to pursue my lifelong career really took off.

Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell?

Send Lion Tales information to

Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.

MSSU's Lipira accepts position as interim VP for academic affairs

Dr. Pat Lipira, who currently serves as head of the department of kinesiology as well as interim dean of the school of education, was named interim vice president for academic affairs after Dr. A.J. Anglin decided to return to the classroom, effective June 1.



Dr. Pat Lipira

Lipira has been with the university for 31 years and has served as an administrator since 2000. She coached softball at MSSU for 19 years, leading the team to a national championship in 1992. Her appointment will last for two years, at which time the university will hold a national search.

Their moves created additional staffing changes. Dr. Crystal Lemmons, currently head of the department of biology and environmental health, was named interim assistant vice president for academic affairs, and will continue to teach. Dr. Al Cade, head of the department of teacher education and interim associate dean for the school of education, will serve as interim dean of that school.

Department head positions in biology and environmental health as well as kinesiology will be announced as they are determined.

Anglin has served as vice president for academic affairs since 2010.

Soccer players read Dr. Seuss, build birdhouses to help Joplin

The Missouri Southern soccer team participated in two separate community service projects in March.

The Lions helped out with Operation Backyard Recovery in Joplin, a project started by the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center. This project is twofold.

First it tailors the Center's hands-on education programs to incorporate activities to help the community of Joplin experience the healing power of nature. Second is the building and placement of birdhouses that can provide immediate healing and support for people and for birds that have lost roosting and nesting sites, and the planting of native trees, shrubs and gardens to restore the quality of urban and suburban



Members of the Lion soccer team build a birdhouse at Operation Backyard Recovery at the Wildcat Glades and Conservation and Audubon Center just south of Joplin, Missouri. The project will help replace bird roosting and nesting sites that were lost in the May 22, 2011, tornado. — Submitted photo

habitats for people and wildlife.

The program has been picked up statewide and as many as 13 different state parks are helping in the effort to help rebuild Joplin.

The Lions also helped celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday earlier in the month by reading his books to students at Eastmoreland Elementary school in Joplin.

Go to www.mssulions.com/sports/wsoc/2011-12/news to see a photo album of the soccer athletes in action during these two projects.

1992 softball champs inducted into MIAA Hall of Fame class

The Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association office announced its Hall of Fame class for 2012. Among the 12 individuals and five national championship teams is the 1992 NCAA D-II Softball National Champs from Missouri Southern.

The 1992 team, which was inducted into the Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002, went 50-7 during that year and was a perfect 10-0 in MIAA play.

The Lady Lions, as they were called then, swept through every postseason tournament, going 4-0 in the MIAA Tournament, 3-0 in the NCAA Midwest

Regional, and 3-0 at the National Tournament. Coach Pat Lipira was inducted into the MIAA Hall of Fame in 2011 as well as the Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame in 1998.

The Class of 2012 was inducted into the hall at the annual MIAA Awards Dinner, June 7 at the Downtown Marriott in Kansas City, Missouri.

Business students, faculty plant trees as part of Rooting for Joplin

Missouri Southern Phi Beta Lambda, in conjunction with Crowder Phi Beta Lambda, hosted Rooting for Joplin on May 4 and 5. Organizers of the event included MSSU Students Randon Coffey, '12, Missouri PBL Vice President, and Clarissa Essary, '12, Missouri PBL Reporter. Chris Fenske, '91, Crowder College business instructor, also was a primary organizer of the service event.

On May 4, almost 1,200 trees were delivered to more than 380 homes in the Joplin, Missouri, area. The homes had sustained damage or been destroyed by the May 22, 2011, tornado. Approximately 800 Future Business Leaders of America and Phi Beta Lambda students from 60 Missouri high schools came for Saturday's planting, along with volunteers from area businesses, students of Dr. Nnette Philibert, MSSU associate professor management, and business faculty from both Southern and Crowder.

FBLA-PBL raised \$25,000 for Rooting for Joplin over the course of the service project. C.J. Huff, Joplin R-8 Schools superintendent, was presented with a \$5,000 donation during the opening ses-



Volunteers water a tree after it was planted in the yard of a Joplin, Missouri home. Phi Beta Lambda groups from Southern in Joplin and Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri, took part in Rooting for Joplin on May 4 and 5 to replant trees in the city. — Submitted photo

sion the morning of May 5 before the tree planting. The donation to Joplin schools is to be used for landscaping at the new high school location.

University develops website to coordinate anniversary of May 22

Missouri Southern helped develop a new centralized website to offer reporters, researchers and the public a single location to obtain information in advance of the one-year anniversary of the Joplin tornado. The Web address was available through the end of May.

Representatives from local governmental, organizational and service communication offices, including MSSU, joined forces shortly after the tornado to create a mutual Joint Information Center. Although the JIC participants work out of their own offices, they use their collective abilities and resources to communicate with those in need of information.

Rod Surber, director of Web content at MSSU; Shaun Runyon, SharePoint and LioNet Coordinator; and Steven Havelly, a senior computer information science major and student programmer in the information technology department, collaborated with Dustin Storm, 4 States Advertising, and members of the JIC in the development of the website.

The website project came in response to scores of inquiries made to communication offices for information and assistance in the development of news story ideas and contacts. Community and business fact sheets, as well as recovery and rebuilding statistics, were included on the site.

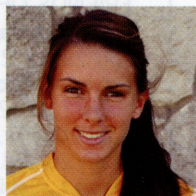
The MSSU Web Team designed the site and supported its maintenance through the anniversary.

Alumni Association names Dimza, student-athlete, Outstanding Grad

Michelle Dimza of St. Louis was named Outstanding Graduate by the Missouri Southern Alumni Association.

The award was formally announced at the Honors Convocation on April 25 in the Connor Ballroom of Billingsly Student Center.

Dimza received a bachelor's degree in biology/premed this



Michelle Dimza, '12

May and graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average.

She is the daughter of Mike and Mary Dimza of St. Louis.

Lee Elliff Pound, '86, director of alumni affairs at Southern, said the Outstanding Graduate is selected based on superior involvement and leadership on campus and community, high academic achievements and respect of fellow students and faculty.

Dimza was on the Deans' List all eight semesters at MSSU. She served as a biology tutor for three years.

Dimza was a team captain on the soccer team for the past three seasons. She was a four-year letter winner, as well as a four-year starter. She was a three-time All-MIAA selection and won the 2010 MSSU Leadership Award. Dimza was also an MIAA Presidential Scholar, a three-time member of the MIAA Academic Honor Roll, as well as a three-time MIAA Scholar-Athlete.

This past year, she served as a research intern at the University of Minnesota Life Science Undergraduate Research Program. In that capacity, she performed a compositional analysis of heat resistant salmonella using surface enhanced raman spectroscopy.

Dimza has been a volunteer with the Special Olympics of Southwest Missouri for the past four years. She has helped coordinate track and field events for the organization, as well as referee basketball games and participate in bingo and dance events.

After graduation, Dimza will play soccer for a Women's Premiere Soccer League team in Seattle while studying for the Medical College Admission Test. Her career goal is to become a physician in an area in which she can incorporate medical research.

Locher, Wagner, Marsh receive special honors at '12 ceremony

Missouri Southern faculty members Dr. David Locher, Dr. Steven Wagner and Dr. Daniel Marsh received special recognition during the 58th Commencement ceremonies at Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. Students and colleagues who nominated the instructors for the awards praised them for their commitment to students and to Southern.

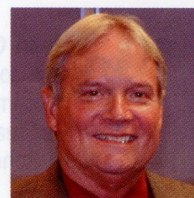
Locher was named Outstanding Teacher, Wagner was named Outstanding International Education Teacher, and Marsh was named Outstanding Faculty Advisor.

Locher is professor of sociology and head of the social science department. He joined the MSSU faculty in 1996. Wagner, professor of history, joined the Southern faculty in 2000. Marsh, professor of physical science, joined the faculty of Southern in 1997.

Regional Media HOF recognizes photojournalist and broadcaster

The Regional Media Hall of Fame at Missouri Southern State University honored two media professionals at an awards dinner on April 19.

This year's awards recognized photojournalist Mike Gullett and president/CEO of the Missouri Broadcasters Association, Don Hicks.



Mike Gullett

Gullett graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in journalism. His professional career has included work at the *Ottawa Herald*, *Parsons Sun*, *Chanute Tribune* and *Joplin Globe*. He continues to work as a freelance photographer while teaching at Missouri Southern and Pittsburg State University.

Hicks graduated from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. He began his broadcasting career in 1970, working at a TV station in Texas. His professional career has included positions at KYTV in Springfield, Missouri; KRGV-TV in Brownsville/Harlingen/McAllen, Texas; and KOAM-TV in Pittsburg, Kansas and Joplin. He assumed his present duties with the Missouri Broadcasters in 1994.

The Regional Media Hall of Fame honors professionals who have made an impact regionally throughout their careers. Recipients are featured in a display in the first-floor broadcast area of Webster Hall at Missouri Southern. Honorees also receive a crystal award trophy.

— From Staff Reports

CLASSNOTES

79 **Mark Elliff**, '79, is the Carthage Chamber of Commerce President and Economic Development Director.

82 **Karen Evans**, '82, received the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Golden Apple Award for teaching. She teaches at Kelsey Norman Elementary School.

86 **Lee Elliff Pound**, '86, was re-elected to the Carthage, Missouri, School Board and was also re-elected as Board Vice-President.

90 **Ivan Obert**, '90, received the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Golden Apple Award for teaching. He teaches at South Middle School.

93 **Michelle Hensley**, '93, received the Carthage Chamber of Commerce Golden Key Award for Teaching. She teaches fifth grade at Carthage Middle School.

95 **Doug Garrison**, '95, received the Carthage Chamber of Commerce Golden Key Award for Teaching. He teaches Language at Carthage Junior High School.

96 **Matt Huntley**, '96, received the Carthage Chamber of Commerce Golden Key Award for Teaching. He is an Assistant Principal at Carthage Senior High School.

Brandi Landis, '96, received the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Golden Apple Award for teaching. She teaches at Kelsey Norman Elementary School.

Troy Mascher, '96, is the Director of Information Technology at the Nevada Regional Medical Center.

99 **Melodee Colbert-Kean**, '99, was elected Mayor of the city of Joplin.

02 **Melonie Pierson**, '02, is a Plant Controller at Portola Packaging.

03 **Brenden Gubera**, '03, '06, is the Athletics Director at McAuley Catholic High School. He is also the Head Football Coach.

06 **Derick White**, '06, is a Learning Consultant at the Cerner Corporation.

Joe Bettasso, '06, is the Assistant Football Coach of Defensive Backs at Quincy University.

07 **Atiba Bradley**, '07, is the Defensive Coordinator, Recruiting Coordinator and Defensive Lines Coach at Quincy University.

Lynnae Cook, '07, is a Student Services Coordinator for Crowder College.

08 **Jacob Cook**, '08 is in Sales at MHC Kenworth.

Phillip Dowden, '08, is the Assistant Athletics Director for Media Relations at Northwest Missouri State University.

Cynthia Patrick, '08, graduated with a Master's of Arts degree in Public Relations from Webster University.

10 **Taylor Griffith**, '10, is the Assistant Golf Professional at Twin Hills Country Club.

11 **Melissa (Holt) Nance**, '11, is the dance instructor at the Parsons Recreation Commission, adjunct faculty at Labette Community College, a group fitness instructor at Greatlife Golf and Fitness Club, and a freelance choreographer.

Adan Nance, '11, is a Police Officer for the City of Oswego, Kansas.

Angela Tingblad, '11, is a Staff Accountant at IVESCO, LLC.

— ClassNotes reports from
MSSU Alumni Association office



LIONLOVE

Katie (Wooldridge), '09, and Brian Crigger were married on June 25, 2011

Adan, '11, and Melissa (Holt), '11, Nance, were married on November 11, 2011.

FUTURELIONS

Aaron and Ashley, '11, Hailey welcomed Alleigh Jean Hailey on April 9, 2012.

Keep in touch!

Have something you want to share
with your fellow alumni?
Send us your information.

Missouri Southern Alumni Association
3950 East Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801
or via email, AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu

INMEMORIAM

1960s

Paul Hess, '68
March 23, 2012

1970s

Doris McCleary, '72
February 8, 2012
Stephen Watson, '75
January 24, 2012

1990s

Ryan Parker, '95
February 3, 2012

2000s

Sharon Barnett, '00
April 2, 2012

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Flora Mae Case,
April 23, 2012

Robert Cannon,
March 1, 2012

Freda Culver,
March 26, 2012

Mesia L. Schiavo,
January 17, 2012

Missouri Southern remembers faculty and friends

Earl Sam Gibson, of Neodesha, Kansas, died January 31, 2011. Earl Sam Gibson was born September 18, 1939, to P. Wayne and Donna Leah (Arnold) Gibson.

He graduated from Neodesha High School. After graduation, he received a Bachelor's of Science degree from Pittsburg State University and a doctorate in biology from Kansas State University. He taught at Missouri Southern State University for 28 years and was dean of the biology department.

Survivors include his mother. He was preceded in death by his father; a sister, Paula Adee; and a brother, Dean Gibson.

Robert Owen "Bob" Highland died January 8, 2012, in Joplin, Missouri. He was born April 21, 1925, in Vinita, Oklahoma, the son of William and Minnie Iona Highland.

He graduated from Vinita High School and earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Oklahoma University. He earned his PhD at the University of Arkansas.

He was a lifelong educator and spent most of his career with Missouri Southern State University.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda; and two brothers. Survivors include son, Bill Highland; daughter, Cindy; and six grandchildren.

William B. Neal of Joplin, Missouri, died April 11, 2012. Bill was born September 29, 1925, to George and Hazel Neal. He attended Joplin public schools, graduating in 1943, when he entered the U.S. Army. He served in the European Theatre of operations in World War II, including in the Battle of the Bulge.

He returned to Joplin and went into business with his father in a meat packing company, Pipkin-Boyd Neal Company.

Always interested in radios, he applied for an AM broadcasting license for KQYX. A year later, he applied for an FM license for station KSYN. He also owned WMBH.

In 2000, he was awarded the Pioneer Broadcaster Award from Missouri Southern State University. He was a lifetime member of Missouri Broadcasters Association and member of Joplin R-8 Board of Education.

He married Betty Marsh on December 14, 1946; she survives. He also is survived by son, Chris Neal; daughter, Martha Neal-Johnson; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Terri Neal-Stevens.

Helen Alberta Gardner Rogers, retired professor emeritus of English at Missouri Southern died March 11, 2012, at the Via Christi Village in Pittsburg, Kansas.

She grew up in the Kansas City, Kansas, area, graduating from high school in 1918. She began college at Pittsburg State University, then KSCP, where she met and married Eugene Gardner their senior year. She received a bachelor of science degree in 1922 and began her teaching career in Fort Scott, Kansas, where their only daughter, Judith Ann, was born, now deceased.

When the family moved to Peoria, Illinois, Helen and her husband taught at Bradley University. They also received a Master's from Bradley University, she in English and Gene in technology. They later earned their PhD degrees from the University of Indiana.

They spent sabbatical leaves in Baghdad, Iraq, and Iran, where Helen established a school for children and taught the English language. Another sabbatical leave was in Sao Paulo, Brazil, before moving to Pittsburg in 1966. Helen was professor of English at Missouri Southern until retirement.

Samuel Jefferson Starkey Jr., of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died May 10, 2011. He was born March 1, 1931, in Grain Valley, Missouri, the son of Samuel Jefferson Starkey Sr. and Jessie Starkey.

Samuel was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Air Force. He married Sarah Marie Dodgen in Siloam Springs on August 19, 1955.

After his military service, he became a teacher and coach at several places in Missouri and Arkansas.

From 1958-63, Sam was the first men's basketball coach at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, earning a National Championship in his second year and later served as head basketball coach at College

of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas. He received his doctorate from the University of Arkansas in 1970, and was employed for many years as a professor at Missouri Southern State University before retiring in 1991.

Survivors include his wife; children, Jessica Knowles, Samuel J. Starkey III and Barton Starkey; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother; and three sisters.

Robert "Bob James" Thranert died March 25, 2012, in Joplin, Missouri. He was born to Ella Armstrong Ferguson Thranert and Edwin Frank Thranert in Battle Creek, Michigan, on March 25, 1929.

Bob James retired from broadcasting in October 1993, after working as news director for KSYN/KQYX radio. His broadcasting career included work in Carthage, Missouri; Tulsa Oklahoma; and Michigan. He was inducted into the Missouri Southern State University Regional Media Hall of Fame in 2006.

Some of his favorite highlights in his broadcasting career included interviewing John F. Kennedy and Elvis Presley, covering the tragedy in Joplin with the Connor Hotel, the Christine Craft Trial, and working remotes for Higdon's open houses. But he was most proud of his work with the Jim Nail Memorial Foundation, which honors local police, fire, and rescue personnel.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; daughters, Rebecca Pickering and Deborah Kelley; son, Phillip; and four grandchildren.

Wilma Pauline Wolfe of Joplin, Missouri, died March 16, 2012. She was born to Gertie Mae and Frank Wolfe on August 16, 1914.

She taught for 42 years in Missouri schools, retiring in 1976 from Missouri Southern State College.

Surviving are her nephews and their families. Preceding her in death were her sister, Helen Mae Carlson; and brothers, Allen Wolfe and Wilbert Wolfe.

Memoriam is current as of May 1, 2012. For additions in the next issue, send an email to Alumni.Assoc@msu.edu or give us a call at 417-659-LION.

crossroads

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